

# Gay Community News

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## Getting Defensive

Queer patrols hit the streets

**T**he message is out on the street. In Philadelphia, it filters back through crime statistics showing a 41 percent drop in the total number of reported crimes in the area patrolled by Center City Nite Watch. In New York City, the delicatessens see a rise in nighttime business after the Pink Panthers began their patrols. And it's impossible to count how many harassers and bashers are growing discouraged at the sight of 12 or so queers in black and teal uniforms walking down the street in tight formation.

The message is simple: queer folk are banding together and walking the streets in cities around the United States to protect their own. Their tactics and strategies differ, but the basic aim is always the same: stop the violence in gay and lesbian neighborhoods.

There's nothing new to civilian-based safety patrols, as your local police department will inform you. Nor is there anything new to the efforts of our communities to fight back against anti-gay and anti-lesbian violence; anti-violence programs have collected statistics, been advocates for victims and held self-defense classes for years in dozens of communities around the country. What makes the new phenomenon different is the recent surge in combining these two ideas.

### THE VIOLENCE OF 1990

In early 1991, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Policy Institute released its yearly report, "Anti-Gay/Lesbian Violence, Victimization & Defamation." It documents a dramatic 42 percent nationwide rise in the number of incidents of violence between 1989 and 1990. The six cities that participated in the survey exhibited a range of increases, from an 11 percent rise in Chicago to 133 percent in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

The report also claims that increased reporting of anti-gay/-lesbian violence (which can indicate an increase in the willingness of victims to file complaints, press charges or simply notify the local community health center), is not enough to explain the size of the increases in the numbers of reported violent incidents.

Continued in centerspread

## Cleaning up in North Carolina

*Settlement calls for lesbian/gay group's recognition for its role in a state-wide highway clean-up program*

**By Jacob Smith Yang**

ASHEVILLE, N.C.—Lesbian and gay activists won an important victory July 16 when a settlement was reached with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DoT) allowing them to participate in an "adopt-a-highway" clean-up program.

An application to the program by the Southern Appalachian Lesbian and Gay Alliance (SALGA) had been denied by the DoT, causing the group to file a lawsuit against the state agency in December 1990.

"This is the first time any gay and lesbian group has taken on the state and won," said Carlos Gomez, co-chair of SALGA. "It is a first step towards making the state realize that we exist and they are going to have to take us seriously," he told *GCN*.

"This is an important case because the state was so decidedly, automatically anti-gay," said Ruth Harlow, staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) National Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Project. "It shows that lesbians and gay men share community concerns about keeping their state clean."

### DoT safety concerns

SALGA, a grassroots gay and lesbian community group based in Asheville, originally applied to participate in North Carolina's "Adopt-a-Highway" program last summer. Under the three-year-old program, community groups take responsibility for picking up litter along a two-mile stretch of highway in exchange for a posted sign identifying the sections of highway they maintain. More than 7000 groups currently participate in the program.

Betsy Powell, director of the DoT's Highway Beautification Program, told *GCN* that applications are usually processed by one of 51 program engineers statewide. SALGA's application, however, was sent to DoT Secretary Thomas J. Harrelson for approval.

Harrelson rejected the application, arguing that the placement of a highway sign identifying SALGA "might trigger hostility against the group," presumably by drivers who might attack or harass members as they pick up roadside litter.

"The secretary's primary concern was for the safety of SALGA's members," DoT spokesperson Betsy Harrison told *GCN*. "There was no desire to discriminate against this group [SALGA]," she added. "The department was interested in preventing a dangerously hostile reaction from certain segments of the community."

"Even though the state claimed to be concerned with our safety, we felt there was a large degree of homophobia behind the decision," said Cynthia Janes, a member of SALGA and editor of *Community Connection*, a local gay and lesbian newspaper. "Legally, we felt we were entitled to equal treatment in participating in the program."

Harrison said that there were also some concerns that SALGA's sign might actually incite passersby to litter or vandalize the group's sign. "After all, the objective of the program is to keep the highways clean," she said.

### No 'heckler's veto'

SALGA contacted attorneys at the North Carolina chapter of the ACLU, who agreed to represent them. The lawsuit, filed in the Federal District Court of the Eastern District of North Carolina, charged that SALGA members' First Amendment right of freedom

Continued on page 7

# Newsnotes

## Singapore bans gay/lesbian travel magazine

SINGAPORE—Gay and lesbian tourists are being urged to boycott Singapore, following the banning of a gay travel magazine, according to an article in *Vanguard*, a Los Angeles gay newspaper. Wayne Whiston, editor of *Our World*, an international travel periodical published in Daytona Beach, Fla., said the Controller of Undesirable Publications for the government of Singapore will not allow the magazine to be sold or distributed.

Whiston has responded by urging travellers to visit other Southeast Asian countries. "They don't want us, and we don't need them," Whiston said.

Letters protesting the magazine's banning may be directed to the Controller of Undesirable Publications, Government Palace, Singapore, Singapore.

—Marjorie Bryer

## Outings in Washington continue

WASHINGTON—The *San Francisco Sentinel* reports that two gay government officials who have supported anti-gay policies were outed recently by Queer Nation.

High-level Pentagon spokesperson Pete Williams became the first target to be outed on June 28 by Queer Nation/National Capitol for being an "openly closeted gay man." Citing the Pentagon's official policy of viewing homosexuality as "incompatible" with military service, Queer Nation member Michael Petrelis denounced "the high level of hypocrisy that extends to [Defense Secretary] Dick Cheney's office." Petrelis has gained wide recognition—and some opposition by gay groups—for his outing practices and his outing vehicle, the newsletter *Piss and Vinegar*.

Over the July 4 weekend, Queer Nation/Minneapolis and Queer Nation/Madison joined forces with Queer Nation/National Capitol to urge Rep. Steve Gunderson, a Republican from western Wisconsin, to "come out now for gay rights" at a parade in La Crosse where he was speaking. Police arrested Tim Campbell, editor and publisher of Minneapolis's *GLC Voice*, for littering, as he distributed flyers. Campbell was scheduled to go to trial July 17.

Petrelis claims to have once confronted Gunderson in a gay bar in Alexandria, Va., and reporters from media outlets in Gunderson's district say that rumors of Gunderson's homosexuality are common.

Gunderson has been unavailable for comment. His staffers have charged that Campbell and Petrelis are "loudmouths making news for their paper."

—Jacob Smith Yang

## 'Exposing hatred' in Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS—Members of the Louisiana Lesbian and Gay Political Action Caucus (LAGPAC) resolved July 21 to press for earliest possible passage of a city ordinance to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in jobs, housing and public accommodations. The resolution followed the June release of an extensive report that documented the victimization of lesbians and gay men in New Orleans.

Joan L. Ladnier, co-chair of the LAGPAC, told *GCN*, "We're hoping the report will be a great support for a city anti-discrimination ordinance. In the past, people within the city government said they didn't vote for proposed a anti-discrimination ordinance because they didn't believe there was a need. Hopefully," she added, "they will read this report and be unable to deny the need."

The late Mayor Ernest N. Morial added sexual orientation as a protected class to New Orleans's non-discrimination policies in public employment in 1985. Attempts to pass a city ordinance that would protect lesbians and gay men in both the private and public sectors failed in 1984 and 1986.

The report, entitled "Exposing Hatred," is one of the first detailed documentations of anti-gay violence in then the South. Initiated by the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns (MAC), the study incorporates responses to questionnaires filled out by gay men and lesbians in 1989.

Eight of 10 people responding to the survey questionnaire reported some form of victimization—from discrimination in jobs,

housing and public accommodations to arson, rape and police abuse.

In the report, MAC made 16 recommendations, including a call to repeal existing anti-gay city ordinances and renew police sensitivity training.

"We have hand delivered copies of the report to city council members and the mayor," said Ladnier. "I think they're still reading it."

Ladnier said that Mayor Sidney Bathelmy had already repudged his support of a city ordinance protecting gay and lesbian civil rights at the annual New Orleans lesbian and gay Pride celebration, June 29.

"Really, we're in the beginning stages of working towards passage of an anti-discrimination ordinance," said Ladnier. "But I think, with this report, its passage is much more likely."

When asked if efforts were being made to pass a state law protecting gay and lesbian civil rights, Ladnier said, "That's not realistic given that Louisiana is very conservative and our legislature is so backward."

Ladnier pointed out that the Louisiana legislature recently overrode a gubernatorial veto to pass the strictest anti-abortion measures in the U.S. (See *GCN*, Vol. 18, No. 46).

—Jacob Smith Yang

## Ex-Partridge agrees to plea bargain

PHOENIX—Faced with charges of assault and robbery on a transvestite prostitute, and flight from police, former child television actor Danny Bonaduce agreed to a plea bargain July 19. He formerly portrayed the incorrigible, freckle-faced Danny Partridge on the '70s TV sitcom "The Partridge Family."

Bonaduce, 31, made the agreement with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. He pled guilty to endangerment and entered a no-contest plea to misdemeanor assault. The robbery charge was dropped.

According to the *Bay Area Reporter*, Bonaduce also agreed to pay medical and reconstructive surgery costs of Darius Barney, the man he attacked. Barney suffered a broken nose and cuts after Bonaduce paid him \$20 to perform a sex act, solicited another and then attempted to take back the money when he realized Barney was a man. Bonaduce assaulted Barney, sped away in his car and was arrested by police at his home.

Bonaduce has been ordered to reappear in court for sentencing, Aug. 23. He faces maximum penalties of two years in jail and fines of up to \$150,000.

—Chris Wittke

## Transamerica denies gay man travel benefits

PLEASANTON, Calif.—A local branch manager of Transamerica Financial Services (TFS) charged that he was discriminated against when the giant banking corporation refused to let him bring his male partner on a trip he had won as part of an employee incentive program.

According to the *Bay Area Reporter*, Lawrence James has filed a lawsuit against TFS, alleging that the firm violated California's Fair Employment and Housing Act. James, a 22-year employee of TFS, qualified in July 1990 for a trip to London. The trip was offered to employees who made more than a specific dollar amount in new bank loans.

In the suit, James said that he had to refuse the trip when TFS told him that his lover was ineligible to accompany him. He maintains that TFS has previously permitted other workers to bring unmarried partners of the opposite sex on such trips.

Richard Olsen, a Transamerica Corp. spokesperson, said that unmarried partners have never been allowed on such trips. He described the trips as business-oriented, rather than vacations.

James's suit also charged that, because Transamerica Corp. is based in San Francisco, the company is in violation of the city ordinance, which protects gay men and lesbians from discrimination. No court date has been set.

—Jacob Smith Yang

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# Mass. rights law may face 1992 repeal effort

A 'vindictive ballot' initiative calls for an end to the gay and lesbian rights law, adoption/foster care and depictions of homosexuality in schools and in ads

By Dawn Schmitz

BOSTON—An anti-gay organization filed a petition Aug. 7 that could put an initiative to repeal the state's gay and lesbian civil rights law on the 1992 ballot. The petition, filed five minutes before the deadline, also targets lesbian and gay parenting rights and seeks to limit images of lesbians and gay men in schools and in the media.

Lesbian and gay activists are vowing to fight the referendum, starting at the Massachusetts Attorney General's office where it was filed. "We're going to ask the attorney general's office to declare it unconstitutional," said Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

The attorney general's office said they will now begin a review process to determine whether the petition meets certain necessary criteria and does not involve certain excluded areas. According to Tom Samoluk, a spokesperson for the attorney general, a petition cannot pertain to religion, appropriations or individual constitutional rights. In addition, it cannot deal with powers of courts and access to justice in the courts.

"[Attorney General] Scott Harshbarger has always supported gay and lesbian people. We'll all be calling on him to support us," said Michael Cronin, a member of the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance and a city council candidate from Boston's South End.

Cronin said the petition filed by the group represents "vindictiveness and a determination to impose their twisted moral values on others.... It's a shame that we have to waste time on this. It's a shame that we have to waste our energies on fighting them."

Isaacson told *GCN* the petition calls for taking away adoption and foster care rights for lesbian and gay men, outlawing depictions of homosexuality in schools and banning depictions of "the homosexual lifestyle" in advertising. Other parts essentially eliminate sexual orientation from Massachusetts' civil rights law. Isaacson noted that some measures called for in the petition appear to impinge on First Amendment rights to freedom of speech.

Don Gorton of the Alliance told *GCN* his organization would attempt to get the parts of the petition that seek to repeal the gay/lesbian rights law thrown out based on

the exception dealing with the powers of courts and access to justice and powers of the courts.

According to Isaacson, the petition was filed on behalf of an estimated ten Massachusetts residents, most of whom are from Waltham, Mass. If the petition is not thrown out by the attorney general, the group will have to obtain more than 70,000 valid signatures this fall in order for it to come before the state legislature. If the petition does not pass there, its sponsors must obtain about 11,000 more signatures in order to be included on the 1992 ballot. According to Gorton, Gov. William Weld has promised to veto any repeal of the gay rights law by the legislature.

A similar attempt to bring the lesbian/gay rights law to a referendum was made last year by a group called Citizens for Family First. However, the Supreme Judicial Court ruled the attempt at the referendum unconstitutional because the civil rights law excludes religious organizations, and laws pertaining to religious matters are barred from the referendum process.

But this year's attempt differs in that it seeks an initiative rather than a referendum. According to Gorton, initiatives differ from referenda in that they can involve repealing sections of laws instead of entire law, and the criteria each has to face to get on the ballot differ. This petition was filed by a group calling itself the Committee to Restore Traditional Morality.

"It's disgusting that these people would make a priority of taking away the civil rights of gay men and lesbians when there are so many pressing problems facing Massachusetts," Isaacson said. "They should spend their time helping the poor and the needy, not encouraging discrimination and intolerance.... These people are promoting hate, censorship and the worst kind of fear."

Ellen Convisser, president of the Massachusetts chapter of the National Organization for Women, said in a statement, "We prepared to fight a possible repeal a year ago and we will prepare to fight again. Clearly, this is happening as intolerance is on the rise." Linking the issues of abortion rights and economic rights to gay and lesbian rights, she stated, "We can't afford a repeal, we can't afford another rollback of civil rights." □

## Justice Dept. backs clinic blockaders

Abortion rights activists denounce the government's support of 'anti-choice zealots'

By Dawn Schmitz

WICHITA, Kans.—Operation Rescue, whose members have been blockading three abortion clinics here since July 15, received a boost from the Federal government when the Justice Department filed a friend-of-the-court brief Aug. 6. The brief defends Operation Rescue's attempts to overturn a preliminary injunction imposed by a U.S. district judge barring the organization from blocking the clinics and harassing their staff and patients.

The U.S. Supreme Court has already accepted a case which would determine "whether a certain federal law can be used to protect clinics from Operation Rescue blockades," according to Simon Heller, staff counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) Reproductive Freedom Project. He said the fact that the Justice Department joined this suit may make the other case, which originated in Virginia, more likely to be argued this fall.

The federal law used to prevent members of Operation Rescue from blocking abortion clinics and restraining women from entering them is an 1871 law originally invoked against the Ku Klux Klan. The law was used to prevent organizations from conspiring to deny the exercise of civil rights by African Americans. The Supreme Court could rule the law does not apply to women or that Operation Rescue does not target women as a group.

But Ellen Zucker, president of the Boston chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), said she feels allowing the extremist tactics by Operation Rescue denies rights to women in a judicially significant

manner. "Even those who are anti-abortion often can come to an understanding that it is wrong to harass women who are going for health care services," she said.

Attorney General Dick Thornburgh claimed the Justice Department's involvement in the case was due to the issue of jurisdiction—that the matter should be decided in state and local rather than federal courts. However, pro-choice activists blasted the federal government's actions, calling them politically motivated.

"The U.S. Justice Department yesterday supported terror and lawlessness instead of rights and liberties," said Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League in a statement issued Aug. 7. "In Wichita," she continued, "anti-choice zealots have gone far beyond exercising their right to free speech. They are using terror, intimidation and the most base and unjustifiable vigilante tactics to trespass on the fundamental and civil rights of women who are seeking reproductive health care."

Since the ruling last month, in which U.S. Judge Patrick Kelly found in favor of two abortion clinics who brought a suit requesting an injunction against Operation Rescue's tactics, federal marshals have made more than 1600 arrests of the group's members.

The ACLU's Heller told *GCN* that a Supreme Court ruling in favor of Operation Rescue would have a grave effect in areas where clinics now rely on federal authorities to keep their clinics open in the face of blockades and harassment by the group. "A

Continued on page 7



DAN SCHRAMM



DAN SCHRAMM

## Vigil in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE—With arms linked and voices singing "We Shall Overcome," approximately 1200 Milwaukee community members assembled Aug. 5 at a candlelight vigil for the victims of serial killer, Jeffery Dahmer.

Speakers shared prayers, poems and memories of the victims with the crowd. Many charged the Milwaukee Police Department with homophobia and racism in their failure to detect and put a halt to Dahmer's extended murder spree.

The police department's institutionalized racism and homophobia is "very blatant, but nobody wants to see it," according to Queen Hyler, director of Stop the Violence, a city anti-violence program. Hyler called for changes within the police department. "These victims' deaths must not be in vain."

John O. Norquist, mayor of Milwaukee, addressed the crowd, saying, "It is vitally important to the future of this community that we rally against violence, against disrespect for individual people based on race or the way they live."

Norquist was interrupted several times by hecklers. Some members of the gay and African-American communities have charged that Norquist has failed to respond to many community issues recently brought to light with Dahmer's arrest.

The day after the vigil, Norquist appointed psychotherapist and AIDS advocate Gary Hollander, an openly gay man, to a special commission formed to evaluate the police department's community relations in the wake of the discovery of the murders. The commission is expected to make recommendations in 60 days.

Rev. Jesse Jackson arrived in Milwaukee Aug. 7 and met with members of the African-American and lesbian/gay communities. He also met with some families of Dahmer's victims.

The same night, the city's conservative police union gave Police Chief Philip Arreola a 98 percent vote of no confidence for his decision to suspend and conduct an internal investigation of three officers who some say could have put a stop to Dahmer's spree in May. Arreola has no plans to resign.

The officers responded to a call in which a disoriented 14-year-old boy who bleeding from the buttocks attempted to flee from Dahmer. They released the boy, Konerak Sinthasomphone, into Dahmer's custody when Dahmer told them the boy was his 18-year-old lover and that the couple was having a domestic dispute.

—Jamakaya

## GCN Editorial Guidelines

The "Community Voices" and "Speaking Out" sections in GCN are parts of our efforts to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed within our pages. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks. Copies of letters and "Speaking Out" contributions sent elsewhere are printed on a space available basis only. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and "Speaking Out" contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff or membership.

All letters and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. "Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES and require a short (one to two sentence) biographical note about the author for inclusion at the end of the article.

Because GCN wishes to encourage dialogue and a diverse representation of perspectives on the letters pages, printing of "Speaking Out" contributions received from authors who have had other "Speaking Outs" appear in GCN recently may be postponed temporarily.

For editing purposes, it is helpful to be able to contact you easily -- please enclose your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article. Thanks.

## Unisexuaphile?

Dear GCN:

Edward Stein's article (GCN July 21-27) about Joseph Epstein and the *American Scholar's* preference for "homosexual" and "female homosexual" over "gay" and "lesbian" makes a good case against Epstein but isn't so persuasive about the terms involved. "Homosexual" is a good Latinate word with unmistakable meaning, universally understood. I found that as far away as Finland and the Soviet Union "homosexual" was understood and "gay" wasn't. "Homo" seems to be understood worldwide as a derogatory term, but "homosexual" seems to be regarded at least half the time as a technically correct, fairly neutral word. "Lesbian" is pretty much understood, though its origin is indirect and unscientific, coming almost mythologically from the island of Lesbos. I don't know where "gay" comes from as a term for homosexuals (and mostly used only for males), but it has no denotation that could logically lead anyone to think of love of the same sex. I too think of it as faddish.

The problem is not with the words but with their use. Centuries of homophobia have made "homosexual" a term that many will regard unfavorably. I don't have an alternative suggestion that convinces me. Edward Stein mentions "African-American" versus "Negro." I don't like the term "African-American" much either, because it too is inaccurate (millions of Americans of color come from islands and have little more direct descent from African than most of us do from the Fertile Crescent). What I do like about it is that it is a mouthful awkward to say and cumbersome to print; so just *maybe* that term will be used less often—only when a distinction about the person's skin color is really necessary. Maybe printed news and commentary, where space is the most valuable commodity, will omit those sixteen characters when the color of the person discussed is not really an essential matter. So perhaps, by analogy, what we need is a similar mouthful: "unisexuaphile" or, better, "identicasexuaphile." For Americans who don't like scientific-sounding latinate terms, how about "same-sex lovers?"

I understand the need for a term that reflects pride and acceptance, or at least seems neutral. But "gay" does strike me as slightly silly sounding and wholly uninformative. Until a better word is found if the distinction must be made, I don't mind being called homosexual. It's at least accurate.

Best,  
Herbert M. Simpson  
Geneseo, N.Y.

## 18-month nightmare

Dear GCN:

I'm writing this to you in the hope you will be able to publish it and some legal mind will see it and lend Ronnie Jackson, 209-162, a legal hand. About 18 months ago, Jackson came down with pneumonia and was diagnosed as HIV positive. Jackson is gay, and the hospital staff let confidential information about Jackson's condition out into population. And it's been a nightmare in this place for him ever since.

Every cell he's been placed in, he has been run out of. Jackson is 5'6", 118 pounds, very feminine and not aggressive. He is not a fighter. Every time he is run out of a cell because of his HIV problem, the administration locks him up for three or four months and sends him right back out to population, to face the same problem, all over again by himself.

When they started single person cells here they still would not give him one, not even the doctor would give him a single cell for health reasons. The Administration let the CO's and inmates dog Jackson. But the Administration has really gone overboard now.

On May 30, Officer Redwood and Officer Underwood picked Jackson up for no reason and placed him in investigation in J-2: the Hole. They did not give him a ticket, they did not let him see the hearing officer, they did not let him see the A.C. committee. But they put him in A.C. (Administrative Control). And the unit manager of J-Complex Unit-8 told Jackson that he is locked up for being promiscuous sexually, spreading the HIV virus around population. Jackson had never been caught in a sex act of any kind here at Lucasville. I'm Jackson's man John. Jr. Banford #170-993. My HIV blood test is negative. They said they locked him up under the A.R. rule that he is a danger to population and to himself. They did not have a good reason to lock him up. There is no proof against him about being promiscuous and spreading the virus.

There are 30 or 40 known cases of HIV positive people here at Lucasville and that's just the ones they know about. There is no mandatory HIV testing here. Would you print this in your next issue, so Jackson can get some possible chance at getting some kind of legal help? I think this is a test run to lock up other people who are HIV positive.

Respectfully,  
John Jr. Banford #170993  
P.O. Box 45699  
Lucasville, OH 45699-0001

## FBI: Not a fashion statement

Dear GCN:

Feminists beware! The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is trying to crawl out from under its rock and ingratiate itself as an "equal opportunity employer" and friend of progressive movements.

At the July National Organization for Women (NOW) National Conference in New York City, NOW leaders welcomed the FBI by providing them an exhibition booth to recruit from and by accepting an ad for the program book which appealed to women to "enhance your wardrobe" with a gun and an FBI identification card!

Do they think feminists have forgotten vicious FBI campaigns of spying and bloody terrorism against political dissent in the U.S.?

The FBI honeymoon with NOW leaders was quickly disrupted by conference participants who immediately began to organize to oust the FBI. New York Radical Women distributed a leaflet detailing the FBI's lurid history as the U.S. secret police and urged conference participants to demand the FBI be kicked out for illegal spying and harassment; NOW members from Gainesville, Florida initiated a resolution against the FBI presence; and dozens of participants in a speakout protest at the FBI booth vented their rage by condemning NOW leaders for admitting the FBI. The protesters then dismantled the FBI's exhibit. Due to the outcry, the FBI did leave the conference.

It is critical that all feminists follow the example rank-and-file activists set at the NOW Conference and organize against any FBI presence in our movement. The FBI has a history of spying on and harassing feminists and disrupting the women's movement. (See "The FBI Was Watching You," *Ms.*, June 1977.) The FBI's COINTELPRO was directly

responsible for murdering Black Panther Party leaders and other Black activists. FBI terrorism has also been used against the American Indian Movement and Puerto Rican independenistas.

The FBI regularly burglarizes movement offices, beats and harasses activists and has helped institutionalize all types of governmental covert action against political movements.

Have national NOW leaders forgotten the lessons of the past or decided to abandon allies of feminists who have been targeted by the FBI? Allowing the FBI to promote a friendly public image gives cover to its spies and police agents to penetrate more deeply into our movements and confers legitimacy on the FBI's brutal, repressive tactics.

Don't talk to the FBI and don't let them sweet-talk their way into our movements.

In struggle,  
Roanne Hindin  
Radical Women National Office  
San Francisco, Calif.

## Don't buy Bean's

[GCN received a copy of this letter, which was sent to the L.L. Bean Corporate office in Maine.]

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like you to cancel the catalogs I receive both at home and at my office. Since I have always loved the quality of L.L. Bean merchandise and your excellent service, it is very distressing for me to feel that I can no longer support you corporation.

It is my understanding that L.L. Bean stockholders and heirs are very conservative politically and did what they could to defeat the gay and lesbian rights bill in the state of Maine. Denying any group of people basic civil rights is unacceptable to me.

Although I am not a major purchaser, I have always looked to L.L. Bean for quality camping equipment and outdoor wear. When I see friends and acquaintances with your catalog now, I am quick to let them know that their dollars are better spent at a company which does not discriminate against anybody. It is my belief that as more and more people learn about the politics behind L.L. Bean, you will receive many letters like this one. And of course, many people will not bother to write, they will simply take their business elsewhere, as they should.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Christie  
Freeport, Maine

## In prison for robbery, not for being gay

Dear GCN:

I am an inmate at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. I have been in protective custody for 14 months now. I asked to be placed in protective custody because I was being pressured to engage in sexual activities by some inmates. I am a gay male, but I choose so because it is me, as a person, being myself. I am not going to let myself be forced to engage in the games that are played in this system. I have not made it known that I am gay. To do so I would be victimized by the administrative along with the inmates. This administration knows that there are inmates who pressure the more vulnerable inmates to be victim to not only rape, but all the other games. On one occasion, an inmate was caught in the act of rape, and what happened? He got seven days room restriction. Not only was this overlooked by the staff, but there was no investigation by the proper authorities.

The inmates who aren't dumb enough to fall victim to the games that are played, who place themselves in Protective Custody only find out that they fall victim to the constant harassment of the administration. I'm only writing this letter because I know that this isn't the only state that discriminates against the gay inmates in the corrections system. I'm in prison for committing a crime, the crime was robbery, not being gay. Thank you for listening. If any readers would like to write, I would be happy to receive your letters.

Sincerely yours,  
Richard Preis  
Box 2300-38678  
Lincoln, NE 68502

## Wouldn't it be great if everyone did what they could?

Dear GCN:

First, my heartfelt thanks! Recently I started receiving GCN and every issue leaves me eager to read the next one. Apparently a "straight talk" policy is in effect, and I feel that the only ones offended by GCN are those who have something to hide. A lot of questions are raised, and some answers are painfully obvious, if only between the lines. Keep it up,

## Gay Community News

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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(\* indicates member of paid staff collective)

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## Tales from the unemployment office

By Nina Boal

I wrote an earlier "Speaking Out" (*GCN*, Vol. 18, No. 25, 1990) where I discussed the economy and the holes in our "safety net." I described how I had lost my teaching job and how my unemployment benefits had suddenly been cut off after originally being ruled eligible; I had been "overpaid." I was to keep filing, but receive nothing for eight weeks, as I would be "paying back" \$1375 worth of benefits which I supposedly wasn't entitled to. I had appealed the unemployment decision, applied for food stamps and was still looking for a job.

Lots of interesting revelations have come my way since then. If you don't think that economic matters are a gay issue, read on. I wasn't eligible for public aid. The Legal Aid Bureau showed me the Maryland state law (I wonder how many other states have this law) which spells out that neither General Public Assistance nor Aid To Dependent Children grants are to be awarded to those who have been denied unemployment payments on any sort of "non-monetary" issue. Unemployment miscreants are supposed to just go out and get a job. And if they have children, well too bad—these children should have known better than to be born to unemployment culprits. If there are no jobs out there because of the economy, there are relatives, lovers, parents, etc. If these are unable to help, there are always the breadlines and homeless shelters. And while all this is going on, a "penalized" unemployment claimant must file for each week s/he is entitled to nothing. S/he has to be "able to work, available for work and actively seeking work."

I waited for my food stamps, periodically calling up my caseworker at the Department of Social Services office. I wasn't starving, I had rice, cheese, peanut butter and loaves of 59-cent bread in my cupboard—which is more than some people have. One sector of the DSS did *not* blame me for my troubles with the unemployment department; I received an energy assistance grant.

My appeal hearing at unemployment finally took place, a month after being cut off. This was a formal affair with swearing in, tape recorders, etc. I was told I would get

my decision in two weeks. In the meantime, still no checks.

I was beginning to wonder about my still-missing food stamps. Again, I wasn't out on the streets, starving, but my food supply was getting quite low. I called up my caseworker at DSS. She said she would handle it right away. She called back an hour later and said that DSS was not going to give me food stamps after all. Her supervisor had decided that the unemployment money being withheld still counted as "income" even though I was receiving none of it; this "income" took me over the maximum income limit. She told me that the only thing I could do was come to the DSS office and file an appeal. So I did. The caseworker also gave me \$25 worth of emergency food coupons. If these ran out and I needed more food, she said she could refer me to some pantries.

A later call to the supervisor at DSS revealed an explanation that I was being denied food stamps because of "intentional" violations of unemployment regulations. I visited my Legal Aid representative who gave me copies of the regulations which clearly show that what the DSS supervisor was doing is illegal.

The next day, the unemployment decision from the hearing examiner arrived in the mail. And it was *reversed*! I was elated. I never had been sure of what "crime" I had committed, but had always had the guilty feeling of having done something. Now the unemployment people owed *me* money rather than the other way around!

I took the notice to the DSS. Surely they would now see that not only had I not "intentionally" violated unemployment rules, I hadn't violated them at all.

The caseworker took the notice back to her supervisor. While she was gone, I sat in the DSS waiting room. Several other people were there; they had waited over four hours for emergency aid against evictions, light turn-offs, etc. There was only one caseworker available to deal with their plights (there is a hiring freeze in the state and the DSS offices are all understaffed). One man finally got off his seat and walked over to the receptionist.

His voice shook as he told her of being homeless, of having had nothing to eat for three days. I could hear the self-hate in his voice, he was swallowing whatever pride he had as he spoke. He simply was at the end of his rope and did not know what else to do. The emergency caseworker came to see him. She truly wanted to help him. But all she could do was call up a homeless shelter for him to spend the night in.

My own caseworker returned. She apologized and stated that her supervisor was not going to reverse his decision and give me my food stamps. I would have to go through with the formal appeal. She wished me luck with it and encouraged me to follow through on it.

In April, I finally got \$1245 from the unemployment department. Most of it was gone shortly after it arrived, to my landlord and to my parents, who had lent me money (their checks had been made directly to the landlord, electric company, etc., and so didn't count as "income" according to my caseworker). Since then, my benefits have arrived regularly—no "penalty." They give me enough to pay my rent on my own, although I still eat bread and cheese a lot of the time. Which is still, I remind myself, a lot more than what some others have.

But my unemployment is about to run out—and still no job. I've applied for financial aid for a retraining program in addictions counseling. I had the food stamp hearing in May, and the administrative judge grilled the DSS supervisor. Still no decision, still no food stamps. I've contacted a welfare rights group. They encouraged me and said that I am only one of many. The state DSS apparently has a policy of massive denials in order to save money. So the appeals system is glutted. There is talk of a class action suit.

Last week in Baltimore, a client, enraged at being denied food stamps, stabbed a DSS worker to death. This incident brought a lot of feelings out. I know I was churning inside. From all accounts, the DSS worker had been trying to help and had been hemmed in by regulations—she had once been a DSS client herself. But various people remembered all the times they had been insulted or degraded

at unemployment or DSS offices when seeking help.

So what does all this mean? I once thought that my advanced education, my "middle-class" credentials would bring me a higher-paying job. But I'll most likely be taking a minimum wage job soon (assuming I can get one), which will pay less than my benefits. There have been discussions at gay and lesbian gatherings about "class" and how we define it. Is "class" defined by one's parents, or by one's own economic status? By education? What about chemically dependent people, struggling to recover? Those with AIDS, cancer and other forms of sickness or disability? Especially those too sick to work who are forced to subsist at poverty levels on disability payments? This assumes that the disability claim is allowed, and this is a tenuous assumption.

The recent lesbian conference in Atlanta brought these issues up. But there was no way I could have ever afforded to go there in order to join in this discussion. Many lesbians and gay men have had to forgo attendance at Gay Pride festivals which charged high entrance fees.

There is "privilege"—hetero, male, able-bodied and white privilege as well as class privilege. However, there are overlaps. There are horrible racist stereotypes about welfare, and I've heard them even among gay people. But just about all of the clients I saw at my DSS office were white. The caseworkers were both Black and white, mostly female, although the supervisors were mostly male. The official who cut my unemployment benefits off was a Black woman; so was the appeals examiner who eventually restored them. The DSS supervisor who denied my food stamps was white and male. So was the homeless man forced to beg for food in the office.

This article raises questions, and doesn't provide any quick, easy "politically correct" solutions. I hope that it does raise some thought and discussion.

*Nina Boal is still an unemployed lesbian confronting economic issues which affect everyone.*

good (and true) journalism is rare today.

So many things to comment on, but this letter will be confined to two topics.

First, an example of Southern Censorship. In March, I received several writer-oriented books from the Redbook store in Jamaica Plain. No problem here! On July 3, two more packages arrived from the same. *Both* were refused by the institution! Strangely, they were returned to the Redbook Store marked "Addressee Unknown." Go figure. Being more than a little confused, I questioned the Lt. that ordered them to be refused. His words: "One of the packages contained a magazine (very hazy on the name) that was homosexually oriented." Almost as an afterthought (and an escape) he added, "It is not on the *approved* reading list, and can't be allowed." In this way, he managed to cover his personal censoring behind official policy.

From all I've seen and read, the Redbook store's prison book program had been running for many years. Run by love and concern, and by volunteers donating their time and energy, and by donations from you, the caring community, it is a program sorely needed by all of the incarcerated.

My other point in the this lengthy diatribe is education. Several letters have recently touched on "Big Brother," and society's blindness to useless campaign speeches and increased cluster-fucks by those in charge of us, the useless and condemned prisoners. The "Big Brother" syndrome started with the advent of Social Security, have you ever tried to leave it off a job or credit application? All hell breaks loose! Also true is that prisons are big money. My point here is that free society should learn to read between the lines. My two brothers are a perfect example. They both had the usual, "They're where they belong," attitude until I was locked up. No one, including myself, denies that I have a debt to pay for what I did. But hearing about it from me, and better yet, feeling the revulsion that guards seem to extend towards visitors ("How can you?!" type attitude), their eyes have been opened.

Thinking back to my own free days, my concerns went no further than paying the bills and partying, essentially. Not looking beyond my own nose. In today's society, as long as it doesn't directly effect one, one can see no reason to become involved in anything.

Education, if only word of mouth, can possibly change this. Kind of hard to rent a lecture hall and speak about this, but some effort must be made.

Enough sermonizing, I want to end this by again saying thanks for everything, and thanks for caring. Families sometimes feel they have to be involved, loyalty and blood, you know. But prison projects are done out of concern. Let's try a movement called "Involved," something like, "I care because you're there." As a locked down perpetrator of verse and prose, I do what I can. Wouldn't it be great if everyone did?

Sincerely yours,  
Jay McMullen #186704  
De Soto Correctional Institute  
P.O. Drawer 1072 MN 776  
Arcadia, FL 33821

### New meaning of "bi"

[A copy of this letter was sent to the Boston Globe.]

Dear Editor

You picked one of the best women to write about the new meaning of "queer" [Lillian Faderman in the "Focus" section, July 28, 1991]. In the new gay '90s we face issues such as the AIDS epidemic and right-wing censorship of the arts. But I searched in vain as I read her list ("faggots," "fairies," "lezzies," "dykes") for another group which is usually welcome in the younger "queer" organizations: bisexuals.

Are bisexuals gay or straight? We are presumed to be gay by Presbyterians (*Globe*, June 11, 1991, p. 3: "Presbyterians rejected a report yesterday that would have given the church's blessing to premarital sex, homosexuality and bisexuality...") Then again, we are presumed to be straight in other communities (*Globe*, July 17, 1991, p. 62: "A lot of men who become infected through homosexual activity [in the Black community] don't consider themselves gay.") At the same time, many gay and lesbian organizations don't want us and often consider us as half-breed interlopers. We are the refugees of sexual politics.

In Boston, bisexuals have been organizing a feminist, multicultural, co-ed movement for almost a decade, and a nationwide anthology *Bi Any Other Name* (Alyson Press, 1991) has just come out. We have gone through our safe

initial consciousness-raising "I'm O.K." phase, just as the women's liberation movement did, and are now entering larger gay and lesbian organizations to fight institutionalized straight privilege. This is not always easy. In academic conferences and gay pride marches, we have been added by name, then subtracted the next year. We seem doomed to repeat the same tired arguments that raged about adding the words "and lesbian" to "gay community" years ago. But just as women weren't pictured in the word "gay," bisexuals are not pictured in the words "gay and lesbian" unless specifically named.

We have been blamed for spreading AIDS to "innocent" straight people in the heterosexual world, and to "innocent women" in the lesbian world. The HIV virus is not a moral issue, as anyone in the queer community should well know. Such scapegoating is mindless prejudice, since AIDS educators agree that "It's not *who* you do, it's *what* you do" that spreads the virus. The young, who indulge in bisexual and homosexual behavior, but maintain a straight identity, are especially at risk. The point is not to blame the victim, or even bring them "out of the closet," but to raise the institutionalized punishing stigma of homophobia and biphobia. Once again, "Silence (about bisexual behavior) equals death."

Sincerely,  
Marcia Deihl  
Cambridge, Mass.

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# Obituaries



## Gale Wilhelm

BERKELEY, Calif.—Gale Wilhelm, celebrated author of six novels written between 1935 and 1945, died peacefully in her Bay Area home on July 11. The cause of her death was cancer, according to her lover of nearly 43 years, who was with her at the time of her death. At her own request Wilhelm remained at home during the course of her brief illness.

Born in 1908 in Eugene, Ore., Wilhelm was educated in the Pacific Northwest and as a young adult moved to the Bay Area. In 1935, after Random House accepted her first novel—the classic lesbian love story *We Too Are Drifting*—for publication, she was offered associate editorship of *Literary America* and moved to New York City for a year. In 1936 she returned to California, living in Oakdale from 1938 until 1948 and then in Berkeley until her death.

After *We Too Are Drifting* was published to rave reviews in all of the media of her time, Random House published a second novel (not lesbian) and her third, *Torchlight to Valhalla*, another classic lesbian love story. Wilhelm went on to produce three more novels, but never returned to the subject of lesbianism overtly in any of them, although some argue that her heroes are often heroines in disguise.

She is survived, in addition to her lover, by nieces, nephews, a grandniece and two grandnephews.

## Peter Maroon

BOSTON—Peter Maroon, 43, died of AIDS at the Hospice at Mission Hill on July 19. A native of Springfield, Mass. and a U.S. Army veteran, he lived in San Francisco and Boston most of his life. He was a PWA of courage and conviction and a powerful example to many in the struggle with AIDS.

He worked in the emergency room at Children's Hospital since the early 1980s. For the last decade he lived in the Fenway section of Boston, where he was sometimes known as the "Mayor of Kilmarnock Street." A man of many talents and interests, Peter was instrumental in establishing a number of AA meetings in the Fenway and was often active on the Round-Up Committee.

During his 20 years of political activism, Peter was a founding member of the East Coast Education Tour Against Anita Bryant and the Dade County Vote and worked early and long in Boston Gay and Lesbian Pride activities, the Massachusetts Organizing Committee for the March on Washington and several ad hoc gay rights groups.

Peter enjoyed travelling and toured extensively with many friends throughout North America and Europe. His talent and interest in art took him to museums wherever he went. He was a member of the Museum of Fine Arts and the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, and he studied at the Massachusetts College of Art.

A memorial service was held July 28 at the Veterans Memorial in the Fenway.

—Brad Gregory

## Terrence Beirn

NEW YORK—Terrence Beirn, a key architect of public policy on AIDS at the national level, died July 30 of an AIDS-related brain cancer, according to Paul Corser, his lover and colleague at the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR).

Formerly a television news correspondent for the ABC affiliate in San Francisco, Beirn turned to public service in 1984 after he was diagnosed as infected with the HIV virus. He joined the staff of AmFAR's predecessor and remained one of AmFAR's principal

executives until his death. As program officer, he was responsible for overseeing AmFAR's response to the AIDS epidemic. He initiated the first major New York City fundraising even for AIDS in 1985, drawing in Broadway and television luminaries. He spearheaded AmFAR's efforts to coordinate local clinical trials of experimental AIDS treatments into an integrated national system and created the *AIDS/HIV Treatment Directory*.

He also served since 1986 as senior AIDS policy adviser to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, which oversees public health matters. Beirn organized the Senate's first hearings on the issues of access to experimental drugs for people with HIV. He laid the foundation for major AIDS funding bills and was instrumental in ensuring that anti-discrimination protection for people with HIV was incorporated into the American with Disabilities Act.

He is survived by his lover Paul Corser as well as his father, F. Kenneth Beirn of Bridgeport, Conn., his sister Sarah Jennings of El Paso, Texas, and his brother Christopher of Goleta, Calif. Private memorial services are planned for New York and Washington late next week. In lieu of flowers, donations to AmFAR were suggested.

—Sally Morrison



## David Stern

SAN FRANCISCO—David Stern died June 27 four years after being diagnosed with PCP. At the time David rejected his doctor's pronouncement that he had only nine months to live and spent the last four years of his life fighting AIDS, as he had spent his entire adult life—fighting for freedom and justice for all people.

David was a member of ACT UP/San Francisco and worked tirelessly for the release of treatments that could prolong the lives of people with AIDS. His AIDS activism led to his arrest on numerous occasions, including ACT UP's shutdown of the Food and Drug Administration.

His activism dates back to his support of the farmworkers' grape boycott and participation in Bay Area Gay Liberation in the 1970s. He was also a longtime supporter of the Puerto Rican independence movement. David was a loved and respected member of Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, through which he participated in other gay liberation work, including the blockade of the Golden Gate Bridge.

In addition, David fought injustice in the workplace during his 12-year tenure as an investigator for the California State Labor Commission.

He died peacefully at his home, surrounded by the love of both his biological family and his extended family of queer friends and activist co-conspirators. A memorial service was held July 28 in Golden Gate Park where a tree was planted in his memory.

## OBITUARY POLICY

GCN encourages anyone who would like to submit obituaries for publication to do so. We ask that obituaries be typed, double-spaced and limited to 500 words, if possible. Include a photograph, if available. We offer writing assistance upon request. Contact the News Department if you have any questions.

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## Abortion

Continued from page 3

lot of clinics have had to go to the federal government for protection," he said. "In a lot of places the state courts aren't receptive to these claims by clinics because the states are anti-choice themselves."

The High Court is also expected to hear a case to determine the constitutionality of a Louisiana law, passed this year as the strictest anti-abortion law in the country. If upheld, the law would impose a \$100,000 fine and a 10-year sentence on doctors who perform abortions. It would only allow abortion to save the life of a pregnant woman and in some cases of rape and incest. Although the law was found unconstitutional by a U.S. judge in Louisiana who found it violated the 1973 Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* ruling, Louisiana Attorney General William Guste said he will ask the Supreme Court to take jurisdiction of the case.

### Massachusetts Injunction

According to NOW's Zucker, Massachusetts has a statewide preliminary injunction against Operation Rescue, but local authorities have yet to enforce it adequately. "Its enforcement is always weak—at best," she told *GCN*.

Further, Zucker notes that federal involvement in the Wichita suit will only make the problem in Boston worse. "It sets up an atmosphere in which anti-choice fanaticism is seen as normal.... Dick Thornburgh has sent a message that when it comes to women's rights, terrorism is just fine," she said. "It makes it easier for [Boston Mayor] Ray Flynn to avoid the law and it's clear he has very little interest in upholding the law and protecting women's civil rights."

Boston NOW issued a statement July 27 sharply criticizing Flynn's record on civil rights, and specifically decried the timing of a speech he gave that day announcing his candidacy for mayor while a city abortion clinic was being blockaded. The "inaction of police and city officials clearly indicated the city administration's attitude towards women's rights and laws protecting these rights," the statement said.

"Flynn has shown a patent disregard for women's rights during his tenure as mayor, by fighting against pay equity in the city, by openly attacking a woman's legal right to abortion, and by working against the civil rights of lesbians and gays—most recently by squelching the City Council's Family Protection Act," said Zucker. (See *GCN*, Vol. 18, No. 49)

She said the preliminary injunction against Operation Rescue, issued in May 1990 by then-Massachusetts Attorney General James Shannon, prohibits the willful blocking of abortion clinics anywhere in the state under the state civil rights law and imposes serious penalties. "There are trials coming up," she said. "We will see whether or not the courts use the full force of the law."

As Congress takes its August recess, bills are pending in both houses which could overturn this May's High Court ruling that allowed the federal government to deny funds to clinics that mention abortion as an option in their counseling services. Dubbed "the gag rule," the regulation has come under fire not only from pro-choice groups but from medical ethicists concerned about the impact of denying women information about all their health care options.

The Senate passed a bill in a voice vote July 17 which would overturn the gag rule, stating that physicians may provide the full range of reproductive options, and their clinics will still receive government funding. However, the Senate also passed two conflicting parental consent bills. One of the bills, passed 54-45, would allow young women the right to have an abortion if they notify a "responsible adult," and would allow this requirement to be waived by a physician or clergy member. The other bill, which passed 52-47, would require clinics to notify one parent of a young woman's intent to have an abortion and would also impose a 48-hour waiting period on the procedure.

The House passed a Labor/Health and Human Services appropriations bill that includes a rider banning enforcement of the gag rule. Although it does not contain any amendments restricting the abortion rights of young women, the Senate is expected to add some.

Pres. George Bush has threatened to veto legislation overturning the gag rule, so pro-choice activists are concentrating on getting enough support in Congress to override his veto. NOW's Zucker said it is very important for those who oppose restriction on abortion to contact their senators and representatives this month. "We are urging abortion rights supporters to write to both senators and congresspersons on the override," she said. Noting that Title X clinics primarily serve

poor women, she said the consent regulations are "discrimination against poor women who are young."

Zucker said that although the consent rule involving a responsible adult is less dangerous than the one requiring the notification of a parent and imposing a waiting period, she said she opposes all consent and notification laws. "Once you start legislating, you start removing the rights of some group," she said. "We need to send a message that we need a simple, strong override."

—filed from Boston

## Clean up

Continued from page 1

of association and Fourteenth Amendment right to equal protection under the law had been violated.

"We had a very strong case," said William Simpson, one of the North Carolina ACLU attorneys who worked on the case. "The state said our clients could participate in the program under an acronym that did not identify the group as gay and lesbian. It then became an issue of the rights of gay people to be who they are publicly. We were able to put that in a First Amendment context, which is an important legal precedent," he said.

According to Simpson, the state's contention that it was denying the application because of safety concerns had no legal basis. "There's no such thing as a 'heckler's veto' in determining whether someone is legally entitled to participate in this program," said Simpson, explaining why the DoT's "safety considerations" would not have held up in court. "Their argument gave the legal power to the hecklers and the bigots."

Additionally, ACLU lawyers pointed out that SALGA's participation in the program under an acronym would defeat the purpose of community visibility, a primary motivation for most groups joining the program. "Our invisibility has been our biggest enemy," said SALGA's Janes. "Informing and educating the public about our existence is crucial."

Simpson told *GCN* that the state's decision to settle probably came about because the state lawyers realized they did not have much of a defense.

According to Janes, the state said it wanted to save court time and money by settling out of court. "My supposition is that they gave in to avoid setting a legal precedent," she added.

Under the settlement, SALGA will be permitted to fully participate in the "Adopt-a-Highway" program. SALGA's name, including the words "lesbian" and "gay" will appear on a sign posted on the portions of the highway that the group will maintain. Also, the state agreed to pay \$7500 in costs and attorney fees. The lawsuit against the state was formally withdrawn Aug. 6.

Two days after the settlement, the DoT's Harrelson wrote to SALGA, persisting in his request that the group either "reassess whether it would be wise to erect the signs" or "settle on a name that will raise to the least possible degree the specter of hostility."

"If the state is really so concerned about our safety, they would work to pass legislation to protect us from bigots," said Janes.

According to SALGA's Gomez, the group's primary purpose is to work for civil rights for gay men and lesbians. "Although we have been behind many cultural and visibility events, we have also done political organizing," he said. "We have organized a coalition that has attempted to introduce a city anti-discrimination measure, and it is gearing up to re-introduce it in city council."

SALGA is also beginning to work on getting North Carolina's Crimes Against Nature statute repealed. According to Gomez, the vague, three-sentence law, which was yaken directly from the British laws of Henry VIII, has been interpreted to criminalize "any penetration other than that of a vagina by a penis."

Gomez said the Crimes Against Nature law has been used in the past to deny gay and lesbian parents custody of children, and to justify arrests in police sex-entrapment operations.

Janes said that SALGA has also taken an active role in setting up a project to document local harassment, discrimination and violence. She said that the phone service also provides referrals to survivors of hate crimes.

"North Carolina has been number one in incidents of hate crimes for the past five years," said Janes. The state also is the home of outspoken homophobe Sen. Jesse Helms. In the city of Asheville, however, Janes maintains that the environment has been "supportive and positive."

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Alex Cleghorn (l) and other Q-Patrollers on the streets of Seattle. (Courtesy of Seattle Gay News)

# **Don't tread on us!**

**The rise of community  
safety patrols**

**By Steve Karpf**

Continued from page 1

The rise in anti-gay episodes reported to all gay community agencies and most police departments reflects a variety of factors.... However, *such large increases...* especially in the number of physical assaults and other serious crimes—also indicate the severity of the problem has grown...in the past year. *[emphasis mine]*

The NGLTF report goes on to point out that given the geographical diversity of the cities that document increases, “it is likely that other U.S. urban areas (and perhaps suburban and rural communities) are experiencing a similar upswing.”

Resisting victimization

As dry as the numbers and percentages may seem, the NGLTF Policy Institute report is based directly on the daily experiences of gay men and lesbians regardless of their race/ethnicity, class or degree of “outness.” One of the chief community-based responses to this rise in anti-gay/-lesbian violence has been for gay and lesbian people to come together to form groups called “civilian safety patrols,” “street patrols” or “foot patrols.” These patrols often form as a community’s reaction to a particularly dramatic, extreme and/or highly publicized gay bashing and from the personal experiences of the men and women who decide to participate in the group.

In Boston’s South End, late on a night in May 1990, six to 10 men attacked about 30 gay men waiting to enter a party. When one man was kicked and knocked to the ground, the man who came to aid him was also beaten. The remaining gay men tried to escape into the party or stood by and did nothing to assist. (See *GCN*, May 20-26, 1990.) Earlier that evening, three men had been expelled from a party hosted by the Grassroots Gay Rights Fund, and had left, according to the hosts of the party, vowing to return and “get you, faggots.”

According to the report of the incident, witness Mark Selfridge said, “The biggest thing about it all was that I just felt helpless, just standing there watching. You didn’t know if they had a knife or a gun or if they didn’t. They said they had guns and knives.” Joyce Collier of Boston’s Fenway Victim Recovery Program was reported as saying, “The thing that people need to understand is that people do not always respond to things the way they would like to.”

But people like Gene Doherty are responding in a way that they like. Doherty lives in the South End and had been mugged the week before the above-mentioned incident. He helped start a patrol group called South End Fruit Company the summer after the gay men were attacked at the party. In a recent interview, he discussed why the men in the line failed to stop the assault.

“The thing was, they [the attackers] knew what they were doing,” Doherty told *GCN*. “They had in mind that this was what they wanted to do, they just dragged someone away and started beating them. If everyone there had turned around and started fighting, then things might have been different. But the group was being victimized. They see it happening, another person goes over and helps and starts getting beat up, a third person goes over and helps and *he* starts getting beat up. It discourages, it really becomes a victimization thing, almost like shock and amazement that this is happening, that it’s not a gay bashing of one person walking down the street alone. It [the lack of reaction] is a group mentality, and it victimized them all.”

After the attack, a forum was sponsored to discuss strategies to respond to anti-gay violence in general, as well as to that particular incident. At the forum, members of a neighborhood watch group from Boston’s Fenway section called StreetSafe proposed forming a patrol in the South End. By August, Doherty and the South End Fruit Company were on the street.

Other cities have equally shocking examples of gay bashings that became the immediate stimuli behind the formation of street patrols: a drive-by shooting in Dallas; an attack by racist skinheads in Seattle; an assault on a Take Back The Night march in New York City. A pervasive rise in violence also plays a strong role. Philadelphia was turning up “two and three bloody heads a week,” according to Bobbi White of Center City Nite Watch, “in a very contained gay area.” Members of all but one of the groups contacted by *GCN* remembered a specific incident that forced their community to say “enough is enough!”

Why the street?

Part of understanding the reason behind street patrols lies in the every day experience of lesbians and gay men. The street (subway, supermarket lot, etc.)—that otherwise anonymous, public busy space you pass through on your way to home, work, or play—is the primary site of anti-gay/-lesbian violence. In his recent book *Violence Against Lesbians And Gay Men*, Gary David

Comstock documents (among other things) the public nature of much homophobic violence and provides a sociological confirmation of the years-old street-wisdom of queer people.

Comstock collected statistics from a number of sources in a wide geographic range, but he also conducted his own survey on anti-gay/-lesbian violence. A substantial percentage of the incidents of violence reported in his survey took place in public areas. Fifty-nine percent of the victims of violence in his survey said that they had experienced an incident of anti-lesbian/gay violence in a public lesbian and/or gay area, which might include being outside a lesbian/gay bar, walking or strolling down a street known as being a safe lesbian/gay space, cruising in a popular area, or attending a lesbian/gay event.

Thirty-one percent reported an experience in a public and non-specifically lesbian or gay area (such as a “straight” street or business district) or on public transportation. That means that over 90 percent of the lesbians or gay men in the survey reported at least one experience with homophobic violence taking place in a clearly public area.

Additionally, a substantial portion of the incidents taking place in what Comstock describes as “home settings” occur without relatives or ex-spouses being involved. Only 12 percent of all perpetrators reported by victims fall into these two categories, while the survey also reports that a full 25 percent of reported experiences of violence happen in “home settings”—their own home, their parents’ home, a relative’s home or another person’s home.

Comstock explained in a phone interview with *GCN* that this relatively low reporting of anti-gay/-lesbian domestic-oriented violence indicates that many of the reported experiences taking place in home settings include different kinds of circumstances. According to Comstock, people are often attacked or harassed just outside their home by neighbors and strangers, or have their home or other property vandalized or set on fire.

This is not to say that gay men and lesbians do not experience homophobic violence in their private lives from co-workers, ex-spouses/-lovers, relatives, or guests invited into their homes. But the pattern in Comstock’s survey results show that a massive quantity of targeted violence experienced by gay men and lesbians occurs in public—in the streets and other areas, and particularly centered within gay and lesbian communities. An attack may take place while walking through Greenwich Village in New York City; while cruising the Fens in Boston; while waiting in line in front of a gay bar in San Francisco; or when stepping outside a suburban home near Kansas City.

It is in response to the public nature of this violence that gay/-lesbian-based street patrols are claiming the street as their natural habitat. This is where the potential exists to successfully counter the majority of anti-lesbian/gay violence by: deterring violent conflict; intervening in crimes in progress; and providing aid to victims or information to the police about a perpetrator after a bashing occurs.

Out in the street, on the prowl

Everything that a patrol group does on the street is part of a three tactic process: observation, deterrence and intervention. These work together to prevent, defuse and interrupt gay bashings specifically and violent conflicts in general. Walking through an unusually busy but brief half-hour of street patrolling with the fictitious Foot Fetish Patrol of Metropolis provides an opportunity to imagine people putting these processes in action, and a model against which we can compare the tactics of actual past and present safety patrols in New York, San Francisco, Boston and Philadelphia.

*Ten people are hanging out on a dark street corner in Metropolis. They are clearly mixed in race and gender; most of them look young enough to be teenagers or in their twenties, some are clearly older and at least one woman is in her sixties. They are laughing and joking, playfully poking elbows and making lewd comments about the location of jewelry on various members of the group. A short and wiry Black woman, her hair trimmed down to nearly nothing, steps out from a door behind them.*

*“Form up, people,” she says quietly. “Let’s go.”*

*Suddenly the crowd has transformed itself into three neat parallel lines of three people each, facing one way down the sidewalk, with one patroller standing off a little behind everyone else. The woman who had just spoken stands in front, facing the group. Their comfortable but identical “at-ease” postures, along with the uniforms they wear—black nylon jackets with a large pink human footprint outlined by a pink triangle, black pants, and black sneakers—emphasize*

Continued on page 10

Information extracted from NGLTF Policy Institute report, “Anti-Gay/Lesbian Violence, Victimization And Defamation in 1990”

**Staten Island, N.Y.:** Two assailants repeatedly stabbed a gay man, ripped open his chest, and then slashed his throat. Prior to the murder, witnesses saw the men follow the victim and call him “faggot” and “queer.”

**Queens, N.Y. :** A Latino gay man was beaten to death with a hammer in a schoolyard near several gay bars.

**Atlanta:** A Black gay transvestite was killed by a single bullet in a drive-by shooting.

**Chicago:** Three men grabbed a lesbian on her lunch hour, called her a “dyke,” told her she needed sex from “real men” and sexually assaulted her. She fought back and was able to escape.

**Portland, Ore.:** Four assailants screaming “Kill the faggot!” beat a gay man and slashed him with a broken bottle.

**Pittsburgh, PA:** Three assailants harassed two gay men outside a gay bar and slashed the bar doorman’s throat with a knife when he attempted to stop the harassment. Leaving the bar, they approached a gay man waiting for a bus and said to him, “We’re going to teach you a lesson.” They then stabbed the victim, puncturing his lung.

**Charlotte, N.C.:** Two assailants shouting anti-gay slurs attacked a man outside a gay bar, slashing his stomach, thigh, chest, shoulder and face with a box cutter.

**Burlington, Vt.:** An assailant brutally attacked a gay man outside of Pearl’s, a gay bar, leaving him unconscious in a pool of blood. As a result of the assault, the victim suffered multiple skull fractures, brain damage, and partial blindness. After his arrest, the suspect said to police, “You want to know the truth? I went looking for it. I went to Pearl’s, found a fag, and kicked the shit out of him.”

**Santa Cruz, Calif.:** A man jumped a woman riding her bicycle, attempted to rape her, and said to her, “I’ve been sent here to kill lesbians.”

**Palos Heights, Ill.:** Two men shouting anti-gay slurs punched a gay man, stepped on his face with spiked shoes and beat him with tree branches. One assailant also gouged his finger into the victim’s eyes and poked a stick into the victim’s eardrum, puncturing it.

**Chicago:** Screaming, “This is what I do to faggots,” an off-duty Chicago police officer severely beat a gay man, according to a complaint filed with the police department.

**Salt Lake City:** Two gay men walking by the Salt Palace were called anti-gay epithets, threatened and then assaulted by three county police officers. During the assault, one of the officers said there was a “homosexual problem” in Salt Lake City.

**Baltimore:** A gay male couple was forced to move after months of harassment and efforts at intimidation. They were subjected to taunts, insults and pelted with objects. A window in their home was smashed, a fence torn down, one of their cars rolled on its top, and another spray painted with the word “queer.” At one point, a crowd of 30 neighbors gathered outside their house and warned the couple to either leave or be killed.

**Salt Lake City:** A woman walking with her son was pelted with food by four men in a passing car. One of the men yelled, “I bet you’re proud of your dyke mom, little boy!” When the car returned a short while later, one of the men got out, unzipped his pants, made obscene gestures and said to the woman, “What you need is a real man.”

**Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.:** A gay male couple in Ft. Lauderdale was forced out of their home after repeated harassment and threats by neighbors. Attacks against the men included a rock thrown through the window with the message “Move Out You Fags” painted on it. Neighbors also dumped beer cans and glass shards in their pool, mowed down trees and flowers, and shot arrows at them when they sat in the back yard.

## Patrols

Continued from centerspread



the team nature of the group.

Fifteen minutes later, they're walking down the street in formation, at a slow and steady pace. If they weren't doing it all at the same time, you could almost say they were ambling. Lots of people are out on the sidewalks, going to movies, restaurants, bars and clubs, and members of the group exchange easy smiles, comments and occasional leers with the passersby. Michelle, a transvestite sex worker, gives them a broad smile and says "Hi" as they walk past her corner.

A small, dark park marks the end of the well-lit street, and the patrol spots a group of young white men in jams, t-shirts, and crew-cuts hanging out around a dried-up fountain and drinking beer.

At a murmured word from the woman in front, the patrol members line up quietly against the wall of a building on the corner; they face the park and the five young men, and stand with their legs apart, hands clasped gently behind their backs, eyes focussed on the men laughing and throwing mock punches at each other around the fountain.

Down the street, a car pulls up to the curb where a woman in a platinum-blond wig and high heels is walking back and forth. As she climbs inside the car, one street patrol member breaks her at-ease position to jot down the make of the car, the color, the license number, and the time and place in a small notebook.

A significant chunk of the street patrol's role is to observe what is going on in their neighborhood and act accordingly. The appropriate reaction differs from group to group and from situation to situation. Some patrols ignore transactions between sex workers and their customers, or drug deals on street corners, and some do not. None of the groups ever interfere with any illegal activity that is not specifically violent, but the Philadelphia patrol records the license number of cars that pick up sex workers in their patrol area. If the man or woman later reports being assaulted, or is found murdered, the patrol passes the information on to the police. The spokesperson for that patrol explains that the transvestite sex workers appreciate and support the patrol's work. Another patrol, in the Boston area, writes down the location of drug deals, which will eventually show patterns of drug activity in the area for the police to use.

A second part of a street patrol's observation can be to maintain communication with bars in the area. This way clubs can be warned of a gang of gay bashers, or bouncers can alert patrols of troublesome patrons. In one Seattle incident, a gay man was kicked out of a bar, and Q-Patrol spotted him. According to patrol member Alex Cleghorn, he was "really drunk, really high and physically aggressive." The patrol, spotting him as a potential problem, followed him down the street.

The basic effort of all patrols is to spot problems before they happen. The fictional Foot Fetishists of Metropolis, above, saw a group of people fitting a profile of likely perpetrators of anti-gay/lesbian violence—a group of young men, drinking and socializing just outside a known gay district. Having observed a possible problem, they reacted by initiating another tactic of foot patrols—deterrence.

In a couple of minutes one of the men in the park spots the patrol watching them. He jogs the shoulder of one of his buddies to get his attention and points. Soon the five are staring across the street at the patrol.

"Hey, man, look, the faggots are out again!" "You guys want to come over and

suck our dicks?" Jeers float across the street to the patrol group, which stands in silence, quietly watching. In another minute or two, after the men in the park get no response, one said, "Ah, fuck 'em," to his buddies and they pile into a dark-windowed sedan. The car speeds off and after a brief verbal venting of anger and some nervous laughter, the patrol resumes its walk around the neighborhood.

"We don't know," Q-patrol member Cleghorn told GCN, "who's seen us walking up and down." Deterring bashers from actually attacking anybody is the second major part of a street patrol's function. Some groups choose deterrence through highly visible uniforms, for instance. Street Patrol of San Francisco, in their information package about their group, is extremely explicit about their choice to wear uniforms:

While we gladly intervene in bashings as they occur, our purpose is better served (i.e. less queer blood is spilled) if we can stop bashings before they occur. We can do that effectively only if we are recognizable both to the community and to the bashers. The purpose of our uniforms, and especially of our berets [the latter are fuschia], is to make us instantly recognizable to potential bashers. If they know who we are and what we do, and see us on the streets, they will be deterred from bashing. And thus our purpose will be accomplished.

Adam Z of the San Francisco Street Patrol points out that bashers are "not looking for a fight—they're looking for a victim." A theme of the Street Patrol—mentioned often by safety patrols groups contacted by GCN—was that gay bashers are looking specifically for someone they see as an easy target. Uniforms, obvious training in teamwork and regular (or frequent random) patrols serve to convince bashers that easy targets will be harder to come by.

TWEET! TWEET! Two whistle blasts pierce through the sounds of autos and music spilling out from the clubs. With two crisp orders the patrol picks up its feet and jogs single file down the sidewalk toward the sounds of the whistle, which is being blown fiercely and then is suddenly cut off. One patroller pulls out a radio and speaks into it rapidly. The patrol picks up its pace, remaining in formation, and tears around a corner to see—across the street and halfway down the block—a tall man using a heavy piece of wood to threaten a man on the ground as another man kicks the victim in the ribs.

In minutes, the two men are physically separated from the victim and pushed against a car by members of the patrol. Two members of the patrol team up on each of the attackers and pin them while the patrol leader puts them in handcuffs which she had tucked in her belt. The victim, who is bruised and bleeding from a gash in his forehead, is given first aid and spoken to gently in order to calm him down. Another patrol member speaks into his walkie-talkie and the person on the other end calls 911. Within minutes, the police are on the spot, taking the two men into custody, and questioning the victim and the patrol about the scenario.

It is actually rare that a patrol group will come across a bashing as it is happening. Much more often they will find someone who has just been a victim of an attack, but each patrol is trained to respond appropriately in the event that it comes across a violent incident or a violent situation in the making. To accomplish that, the first reaction is to de-escalate a situation, if that is at all possible. Adam Z of the Street Patrol points out that his group does this "a lot." De-escalation may involve talking people into calming down or abandoning the conflict for the moment.

What is appropriate or not in an already violent situation depends on the judgment of the patrol involved. A "watchdog" reaction involves contacting the police and hovering a safe distance from the event. An "interventionist" reaction involves calling the police but also physically breaking up a fight, using mace if necessary (in the case of Philadelphia's Center City Nite Watch), and getting the victim to safety. Groups differ in their approach—the San Francisco Street Patrol, which is trained in fighting as a team—considers itself as an interventionist organization. Groups like Boston's South End Fruit Company—which lack the training or the numbers to involve itself in that fashion—are more watchdog organizations.

### Measuring success

Center City Nite Watch was the only patrol group contacted that offered empirical evidence of their success in deterring crime. Captain John Collins of the Central Business

Continued on page 11

# Who will mourn our passing?

While the benefit at the ICA got us off to a great start, and donations have been generously flowing in, we're not out of the financial woods yet (See GCN v.19, no.2). Help us keep the momentum going by taking a few minutes to fill out the form below or call us at (617) 426-4469 if you'd like to volunteer some time.

With your help, GCN will continue to be a vital forum for all of us. There's no time to wait. Do it today!



MARILYN HUMPHRIES

"As the political edge of our movement dulls with the passage of time, one of the few remaining sharpies, Gay Community News, struggles to deal with the issues and the economic facts of life. If we let it die, who will mourn our passing?"

- Barbara Grier, CEO of Nalad Press

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## Gay and Lesbian

# Help Line

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The Gay & Lesbian Helpline is a program of the Fenway Community Health Center

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## Patrols

Continued from page 10

District of Philadelphia compared statistics between the same four-month period for two years running, between which times the Nite Watch had formed and begun its patrols. The numbers reflected a 22 percent drop in robberies, a 55 percent drop in burglaries, a 44 percent drop in theft, and a 22 percent drop in stolen automobiles. Reports of rape (from zero to two reported) and assault (from five to six) were up, but Collins commented that "definitely we have more crime being reported" than before, which he credited to an improved relationship between the gay/lesbian community and the police.

Other organizations acknowledged their inability to know how many attacks they might have deterred. Feedback to organizers, however, from the owners of bars, adult bookstores and delicatessens indicates that businesses close to patrol areas may find the volume of their nighttime business going up, or that they have a decrease in problem customers. Anecdotal evidence of violent situations defused, fights stopped and possible gay-bashing groups frightened off (as in the fictional Foot Festish Patrol scene above) shows that patrol groups are clearly successful in handling those violent circumstances that they do come across.

### Gathering support

The difficulty in sustaining patrol groups lies not so much in what the groups do, but in the support received from their surrounding communities, gay and straight. In Dallas, according to Bill Hunt of the Dallas Gay Alliance, the larger bars failed to financially support the patrol there, which mounted additional expenses by hiring an off-duty police officer capable of making arrests. And new volunteers were not readily available to help prevent the core members of the patrol from burning out.

According to Earl Newsome, a former sergeant with the Dallas Police Department, "Most neighborhood watch programs [gay and straight] start out with a bang, then they taper off. You can't have the same people on the street every night." The Dallas patrol organization, as a result of these two factors, no longer exists.

Police are sometimes initially nervous with autonomous street patrol organizations. "They were afraid we would be out there with guns," says Bill Hunt, who described part of the success of the short-lived Dallas patrol as getting more police on the streets. Boston's South End Fruit Company, coming out of the seven-year StreetSafe organization, had no such problem. Nor did Center City Nite Watch, which plugged into the Philadelphia police's long-established TownWatch patrol system. Nevertheless, Bobbi White found the Philadelphia cops "very cooperative" and was "extremely impressed."

Groups with less affiliation with the police also found the cops helpful. "At first they were wary," Cleghorn of Seattle's Q-Patrol says, "[but] they've been there, no questions asked." Adam Z mentioned that the San Francisco Street Patrol takes "heat from queers for collaborating with cops... [but] their response time is exceptional." While Levine of New York's Pink Panthers was less enthusiastic about the police, she commented that they had been cooperative with the patrol's work.

The other reason the queer community has given San Francisco's Street Patrol heat—and an important reason behind its success as an interventionist group—is because of their relationship with the Guardian Angels. Significant parts of the national gay and lesbian community have viewed the Angels as homophobic and militaristic. Street Patrol, partly in response to this criticism, answers the question, "What is your relationship to the Guardian Angels?" in their informational packet about the Patrol: "All of the GA's that we have come into contact with have been unfailingly supportive and queer-positive." Since the Dallas safety patrol, Seattle's Q-Patrol, San Francisco's Street Patrol and the Pink Panthers in New York City have all trained with the Angels, there is considerable reason to believe that regardless of other issues, the Guardian Angels are as interested in stopping gay bashing as they are any other street crime, and advocate the formation of independent gay and lesbian groups.

Chris Ford of the Guardian Angels originally worked with the Pink Panthers and keeps ties with the Seattle and San Francisco Patrols. He explained in a telephone interview that "there's an education that needs to go on with [all] straight people. More people are becoming queer-conscious...as a whole we do not allow any derogatory attitudes or language."

The Angels provided Street Patrol with training on how to work as a team, how to

make a civilian arrest, and how to defend themselves using both personal and team tactics. Street Patrol has patrolled with the Angels through the Mission District of San Francisco, and Ford reports "no qualms whatsoever with them patrolling with the Angels." The Guardian Angels are particularly important in providing patrols with the ability to function as a team and to physically intervene as a team. Members of patrol groups that had not trained with the Angels and told *GCN* they have consciously chosen to be "watchdog" organizations, whereas the more interventionist groups had all worked with the Angels. In the case of San Francisco's Street Patrol, they had chosen to be "interventionist" before meeting up with the Angels and discovered that the self-defense training they had received was insufficient. The support of the Angels is a critical factor in the Street Patrol's success.

### Escaping victimization

Sharon Levine of New York's Pink Panthers said, "We are a group made up of gays and lesbians. The purpose is to show that lesbians and gays can bash back if we have to—the self-empowerment is incredible." She also said that the group is "out there to be visible" and to deter gay bashing. But behind that is the knowledge that they are able to defend themselves if necessary, as queer people, and that message for the people involved translates into a sense of personal and group strength.

Cleghorn of the Q-Patrol says, "People are always saying 'Thank you! Right on!' 'We feel safer with you here.' The community knows we're there now." White of Center City Nite Watch said that they have received "award after award after award." These were the positive feelings expressed by some safety patrols. These are sentiments that reflect a desperately needed change from the "victim mentality" referred to by Gene Doherty as he described the witnessed and uninterrupted beating of two men in front of a line of other gay men at that fateful Boston party.

Lack of institutional support from the gay community, personal apathy and an unwillingness to get beyond community victimization seem to be the biggest obstacles that patrol groups face. But once those are conquered—and a patrol is safely established, out on the street, and patrolling—the evidence shows that street patrols successfully resist the increasing amounts violence being turned against us. □

## Clean up

Continued from page 7

"The real 'crime against nature' is littering," said Gomez, reiterating a slogan used at a recent SALGA rally.

Of the "adopt-a-highway" victory, the ACLU's Harlow said, "For once, it was a case involving something positive happening, as well as a vindication of our rights. Now the state doesn't have to worry about keeping that two-mile stretch of highway clean."

—filed from Boston



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### VIDEO EXCHANGE

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Radio/Cable for/about us. Send \$1 & SASE for program list to John Zeh, 1455 Chapin St. NW, Washington, DC 20009-4510

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Foundation for Children with AIDS is seeking volunteers to commit to 3 hrs. per month. For more info, please call Loretta at 625-2121.

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National Gay Data Base wants to publicize your organization in our nationwide on-line database, accessible by computer. Send us your lists, articles, and newsletters for FREE inclusion. For more information, send SASE to: TKO/NGBD P.O. Box 835, Arlington TX 76004-0835 (5)

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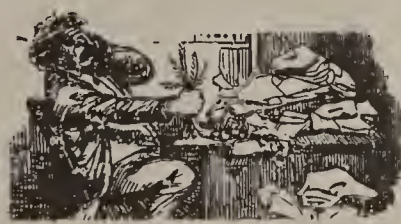
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#### DAVIS SQ-SOMERVILLE

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#### NEWTON, OFF RT. 9

1 LF seeks 2 LF 25+, no smoking, no pets, parking, quiet and safe, 15 min. walk from T. W/D, \$220+ utilities, call Linda 964-1729. (6)

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## PRISONERS SEEKING FRIENDS

Help wanted! I come up for parole in '92 and have no place to go. If interested in helping me out, please write Mike KAMMERZELL, Box 514-161115, Granite OK 73547

Hello, my name is Mark and my a.k.a. is Peaches! I'm a drag queen and I'm lonely. I don't have any family at all to visit me and I have the prison blues. Please write Mark Joseph CATES, C-46146-B-6-207, Box 29, Represa CA 95671

African-American with five years to do in prison seeks correspondence with anyone of any race, shape and creed for friendship and to combat loneliness—mine as well as yours. Please understand there are good men in prison. I enjoy music, reading & working with people. Will answer all. Bobby Marion DIXON, C-41652, Fac. B-249 lower, Box 409000, Ione CA 95640

Physically small, spiritually big male artist and poet in search of open, honest and meaningful relationship. I have been in prison for 18 years and have no friends or family. Please write Deva BLUEWING, 104228, ACC, Box 1000, Craigsville VA 24430

Seeking that special someone. Got head together with modern insight, energetic, sharp, attractive, physically fit. You can count on sincere loyalty. If you would just like to be friends, drop me a line. Chris WHITESELL, 127439, Box 97, McAlester OK 74501

Hey all you gay men out there, do you know how to love a handsome man lover? I'm in bad need of help from an attorney or other. I'm a lonely man. Please write if you care. Sorry, not allowed to write prisoners. Thomas R. BARNES, 40851, 6-B-1, Box 2222, Mineral Point, MO 63660

Hi, I'm a kind, fun-loving person. Very open-minded. I'm gay of 40 years now and looking for a true friend. I'm without family and have no one to write. I love men! Please write Leslie LOMAX, 44893, 6-B-35, Box 2222, Mineral Point MO 63660

Hi, I'm gay and would like to correspond with other gays. Race doesn't matter. I've been in prison for 13 years, but will be getting out 10-15-92. I would dearly appreciate a penpal. Thank you! Herbert L. JOHNSON, 977 Camp Rd, Salisbury NC 28145



My name is Robert and I'm in prison. But I hope you'll have the heart to write to me. Please no games, only sincere responses. Thank you! Robert HUNTER, E-81865, A-6, 107-U, Box 7500, Crescent City CA 95531

I get out soon and am looking for people in Calif. to write to. I am particularly interested in meeting some she-males (any race). I live in the San Francisco Bay Area (San Jose) and would like to meet someone up that way. Please write Randy S. DAVIS, D-00816, Box 3481, 4B1R-43-R, Corcoran CA 93212

## VACATIONS

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## "TO ALL THOSE IN AND OUT OF PRISON, WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE"

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Women Seeking Friends



#### FREE INFO. ON WOMEN & AIDS

A free packet on women and AIDS is available from the National AIDS Information Clearinghouse. It includes a fact sheet, listings of groups that offer services for women, listings of newsletters, books, brochures and more. Write for the packet to National AIDS Information Clearinghouse, Box 6003, Rockville MD 20850.

Also, a publication called "The Positive Woman" is available (you'll have to write to see if it's free to prisoners). It is by, for and about women who are HIV positive. Write: The Positive Woman, Box 33601, Washington DC 20033-0061

My name is Buffy. I'm a non-smoker, non-drinker, and I'm looking for a stable woman to write to. Please write: Buffy NUTTER, 4410, Box 295, Pewee Valley KY 40056. My name is Audrey, and I love to be loved by women. I'm 100% gay, and searching for a mate. I'll tell you more when you write me. I love hot, sizzling letters. Audrey HUBBARD, 1482, Lonnie Watson Center, Pewee Valley KY 40056

Lesbian soon to be released, seeking a femm who is into honesty, old rock-n-roll and good times. Women only need reply. All letters will be answered. Race, geographical area are not barriers. I just want to make some new friends. Doris PRATER, 566529, Box 800, Gatesville TX 76528

Texas tortilla seeks new friends. I'm down to earth and country at heart. Men or players need not reply. Please write Mary SHALLHORN, 365055, Box 800, Gatesville TX 76528

Gay female interested in music, dancing, reading, painting and sharing poems under the moonlight. I'm also a serious cat-lover. Femme looking for an intelligent conversation. Teach me a bit of your culture. Other prisoners okay. Ramona BARRY, N-7139, Ct. Hwy. K, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Gay man who loves to work out my body looking for a penpal. I love beaches, sunbathing nude, walks, romantic evenings. I do air-brush artwork. I do prefer she-males/he-shes and totally gay males a must! (Sorry, no prisoners.) I'm in need of that special person who wants a real relationship. Tony R. PALEN, 060073, R-6, Box 699-W, Sneads FL 32460

GM willing to exchange photos and to relocate when I get out. I'm a moderate smoker & drinker, and love all sexual activities except S/M. I'm very lonely and have lost contact with the gay community. Richard PUTMAN, 155862, 1012 W. Columbia 1-B-13, Farmington MO 63640. I enjoy sports, romantic evenings, cuddling, poems & nature. Very open-minded, fun, looking for a serious relationship. Sorry, can't write prisoners. Joseph S. CARROLL, 082129, Box 1500, Cross City FL 32628

# Calendar



**Boston ♦ Queer Wedding.** "The loving marriage of hundreds of your queer sisters and brothers." On the steps of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Washington St., South End. 2 p.m. Queer Nation. Super-glam reception to follow. Dress: wedding drag. 577-8123.

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged! Listings may also be sent electronically by the Tuesday before the week of the event at the following addresses: via AT&T Mail, Inaleks; via the Internet, naleks @ attmail.com; via X.400, c = us / admd = attmail / pn = / given name = norm / surname = aleks / dda (id) = naleks. No phone calls, please.

Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings, including time, date, place, and a contact person. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows; we regret that we cannot print every submission.

Phone numbers listed are in the 617 area code, and cities are in Massachusetts, unless otherwise noted.

## 10 SATURDAY

Beverly ♦ North Shore G/L Alliance Annual Full-Moon Boat Cruise and Potluck will be 8/24, 8 to 12 p.m. Space limited; reservations required by 8/10. Send \$25 to "Cruise," NSGLA, P.O.Box 806, Marblehead 01945. (508) 745-3848.

Boston ♦ Bicycling Lesbians Around Boston. Info: Lisa 964-9015.

Watertown ♦ Lesbian Tennis. Sponsored by DOB. 9 a.m. Behind Marshalls, Arsenal Mall, Arsenal St. 62R-1038.

Greenfield ♦ Kaleidoscope Third Annual Picnic. 2 to 6 p.m. Older L/G/B and friends. Info: Corrie (413) 525-2188, Warren (413) 586-4277, or Dave (413) 773-3092.

Provincetown ♦ P'town Positive/PWA Coalition Singles Tea. Second Saturday each month. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. St. Mary's of the Harbor. •

Boston ♦ Am Tikva/Club Antorcha Potluck Dinner. 7 to 10 p.m. Boston G/L Comm. Center, 338 Newbury St. Bring an ethnic dish.

## 11 SUNDAY

Braintree ♦ GLASS: G/L Alliance of South Shore. Second Sunday each month at Unitarian Church 6-8 p.m. Info: Brett 471-7939 or Lisa 335-6085.

## 12 MONDAY

Boston ♦ "Swedish Massage Refresher Course." FCHC, 7 Haviland St. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. FCHC Living Well Series. Free, but limited space. Pre-register at 267-0900 x287.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap: "Dating Women." 7:30 to 9 p.m. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

## 13 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ Boston Coalition for Black L/Gs. Second Tuesday each month. Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave. (Mass. Ave. & Columbus). 6:30 p.m. Info: David 424-6989.

Boston ♦ "Living With The AIDS Virus: A Strategy For Long-Term Survival." Paris M. Kidd, Ph.D. 7 to 10 p.m. Berklee College of Music, 1140 Boylston St., Rm. 1A. MCA 266-4378.

Boston ♦ Support group for lesbian and single women interested or involved in alternative insemination. Today: women who have inseminated 1-8 times. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Second floor. conference. rm., FCHC, 7 Haviland St. Info: Jennifer Firestone 267-0900.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap: "What Are We Learning From Our Relationships?" 7 to 8:30 p.m. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Arlington ♦ Parents and Friends of L/G's. Second Tuesday each month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass. Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 547-2440 or (508) 562-5807.

Boston ♦ Healing Service For All Those Affected By AIDS. First Church of Christ, Scitlist. Mass. and Huntington Aves. 628-7665.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap: "Sex." 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

## 14 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ Boston Professional Alliance. Guest speaker: Congressman Gerry Studds. 6 p.m. cocktails, 7:30 p.m. buffet dinner. \$20.

Boston ♦ Client Services Orientation: services AAC provides to HIV+ people. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., AAC room 401, 131 Clarendon St. Sign up: 437-6200 x328.

Boston ♦ Mass. G/L Political Caucus Monthly Membership Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Arlington Street Church (use the Boylston St. entrance).

Boston ♦ Coming Out Support Group. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Second and fourth Wednesday each month. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

## 15 THURSDAY

Boston ♦ "Beyond AIDS 101," an overview of AIDS and HIV. 6 to 9 p.m. Third Thursday each month. AAC Rm. 401, 131 Clarendon St. Info: 437-6200 \*264.

Northampton ♦ Valley Gay Alliance. First and third Thursdays each month. Basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30p.m. (413) 527-5310.

## 16 FRIDAY

Worcester ♦ Lavender Lunch for Downtown Worcester G/L/B. Third Friday each month. Thal Orchid, 144 Commercial St. 1 p.m.

Boston ♦ Friday Night Video Series at the Center: "The Women (1939)." 7 p.m. \$2 suggested. 338 Newbury St. 2nd floor. 247-2927.

Boston ♦ "Meeting Men And . . . (In the 1990's)." Workshop for gay men. 8 to 11 p.m. AAC, 131 Clarendon St., 4th floor. Free, but limited space. Register: 437-6200 x499.

Brookline ♦ Am Tikva Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. Bring something dairy / veggie for oneg. 926-2536.

Provincetown ♦ "I Strike Back!" An "entertainment extravaganza of self defense" with film star Chris Burns and martial arts expert Barbara Niggel. 8 p.m. Town Hall. \$3 donation. 487-2063 or (508) 362-2799.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Summer Ballroom Dance Beach Party. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. First Church of J.P., Centre and Elliot Sts. Beginner's slow dancing lesson at 8 p.m. Smoke free. \$5. Info: Jason Thomas 859-9455.

## 17 SATURDAY

Acton/Chelmsford ♦ Bicycling Lesbians Around Boston. Info: Giulia 354-2853.

Dorchester / Dorchester GALA goes to P'Town. Info: Barbara 288-2962 or Barry 288-1847.

Randolph ♦ All-Day Poolside Chill Cookoff and Evening Country Western Dance. Randolph Country Club. Info: call AAC 437-6200 x333.

Waltham ♦ Way Out In Waltham Goes to Crane's Beach. 9 a.m. 893-0361 or 893-0742.

Jamaica Plain ♦ "Once Upon Our Time": Multicultural Story Hour for Children (3-8) of G/L Parents and Friends. Third Saturday each month. J.P. Library, 12 Sedgwick St. 10 to 11:15 a.m. Limited space. Sign up: Marian or Jennifer 267-0900.

Cambridge ♦ National Leather Association, New England Chapter. Monthly mtg. 5 to 7 p.m. Paradise Cafe, 180 Mass. Ave.

Boston ♦ BAGLY 11th Anniversary Party. 7 p.m. to midnight. Dorothy Oulincy Ste., Old John Hancock Building., 180 Berkeley St. \$5. People age 22 and under, their guests, BAGLY alumni. (800) 42-BAGLY x3006.

Boston ♦ Lesbian Fun and Games. Smoke and alcohol-free. 338 Newbury St. 7 to 10 p.m. Third Saturday each month. \$2 donation.

## 18 SUNDAY

Watertown ♦ GLOW/WOW/MetroWest GALA Picnic. Starts at noon, ends when it ends. On the bank of the Charles near the intersection of Charles River Rd. and N. Beacon St. Bring a beverage and a dish to share, and a grill or something to barbecue, if you like. More Info: Becky 395-4664.

Boston ♦ Queer Wedding. "The loving marriage of hundreds of your queer sisters and brothers." On the steps of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Washington St., South End. 2 p.m. Queer Nation. Super-glam reception to follow. Dress: wedding drag. 577-8123.

SE Mass ♦ SMUUGLE: S.E. Mass Unitarian Universalist G/L/etc. Third Sunday each month in various south-of-Boston locs. 344-7030.

Boston ♦ Joint Reading by Local Contributors to "Certain Voices" and "Dykescapes," Alyson Publications's gay male and lesbian short story anthologies. 7 p.m. Glad Day Bookstore, 673 Boylston St., across from Copley Library. 542-5679.

Boston ♦ Center Night at Ctl. 15 Landsdowne St. Raffle w/ prizes to benefit Boston L/G/B Center.

## 19 MONDAY

Provincetown ♦ Judith McDaniel signs "Just Say Yes." 4 p.m. Now Voyager, 357 Commercial St. (508) 487-0848.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Partners and Ex-Partners of Incest Survivors. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807

Hanover, NH ♦ Panelmaking Workshops for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. First and third Mondays each month. Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. 7 p.m. Info: Thom (603) 632-4145.

Boston ♦ Queer Nation / Boston. Community Church of Boston, Copley Square above Back Bay Bldstr. 7:30 p.m., first and third Mondays each month. Info: 577-8123.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap: "Talking About Sex." 7:30 to 9 p.m. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ General Mtg., Boston Co-Ed Bisexual Network. 8 to 10 p.m. G/L Comm. Center, 338 Newbury St. 247-6683..

## 20 TUESDAY

Framlingham ♦ Framlingham G/L Youth Group. People 22 and under, meets first and third Tuesdays each month. Civic League Building., 214 Concord St. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: write P.O. Box 426, S. Framlingham, MA 01701.

Boston ♦ Support group for lesbian and single women interested or involved in alternative insemination. Today: women who have inseminated 9+ times. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Second floor. conference. rm., FCHC, 7 Haviland St. Info: Jennifer Firestone 267-0900.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap: "Lesbians And Their Mothers." 7 to 8:30 p.m. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap: "Transsexualism." 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston: "Non-Traditional Parenting" with Cindy Rizzo. First and third Tuesday each month. Lindemann Center, 2nd fl. 8 to 10 p.m. Info 742-7897.

## 21 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force. 7 p.m. NOW Office, 971 Comm. Ave. 782-1056.

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area G/L Youth. Open to g/l/b youth 21 and under. First and third Wednesday each month. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd. 7p.m. Info: (508) 755-0005.

## 22 THURSDAY

Boston ♦ Client Services Orientation: services AAC provides to HIV+ people. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., AAC room 401, 131 Clarendon St. Sign up: 437-6200 x328.

Boston ♦ The Coalition for L/G Civil Rights. Meets every other Thursday. The Center, rm 202K. 338 Newbury St. 6:30 to 8p.m. Info: David 828-3039.

Boston ♦ "Introduction to Zen Meditation." FCHC, 7 Haviland St. 7 to 9 p.m. FCHC Living Well Series. 267-0900 x287.

Boston ♦ FCHC Living Well Series: Staying Healthy. Fourth Thursday each month. 7 to 9 p.m. BLC, 140 Clarendon St. 7th floor. Info: Rob 267-0900.

Boston ♦ Am Tikva Picnics and Listens to Music at the Hatch Shell. L/G Jews. 7:15 p.m. Look for blue balloons. Bring something dairy / veggie to share. 926-2536.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Women's Peace Brigade: Jewish Women Speak Out on Israel and Palestine. 7:30 p.m. Cronos' Harvest, 761 Centre St. 983-9530.

Cambridge ♦ "Two Nice Girls" in concert. 8 and 10 p.m. \$10 via Ticketmaster and at 931-2000. Indigo/Nightstage, 823 Main St. 497-7200. Sing along: "I Spent My Last \$10 on Birth Control and Beer."

## 23 FRIDAY

Boston ♦ Boston Professional Association Sunset Harbor Cruise. "Virginia C II," departing from Northern Pier. 6:30 p.m. \$15. Proceeds benefit FCHC Victim Recovery Pgm. BPA, POB 1323, Boston 02117-1323.

Boston ♦ Friday Night Video Series at the Center: "Dona Herlinda and Her Son." 7 p.m. \$2 suggested. 338 Newbury St. 2nd floor. 247-2927.

## SATURDAYS

Boston ♦ Frontrunners. Meet at Metropolitan Health Club for 2 to 5-mi. run along Charles. Lockers and showers complimentary. 10 a.m. Also: Tues. 12:15 p.m. at MHC; Wed. 6:45 p.m. at Hatch Shell. 282-0013.

Cambridge ♦ Single Mothers' Support Group. Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30 p.m. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Pink Flamingos. TV/TS of New England. 4 to 6p.m. 338 Newbury St., 2nd floor. 247-2927.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Women's Coffeehouse. Musical entertainment, usually. 8 p.m. Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre St. \$5 suggested donation. 983-9530.

## SUNDAYS

Boston ♦ Different Strokes Swim Team. Coached workouts for swimmers of all abilities. 10:15 at Boston City Hosp. swimming pool. Ed 767-0449.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY) Drop-In Center. St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. (800) 42BAGLY.

Boston ♦ Work Issues Support Group. 2 to 4 p.m. G/L Comm. Center, 338 Newbury St.

Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club. Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 p.m. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Sports. Magazine Field, Memorial Dr. Spons. by DOB. Softball 4 to 6 p.m.; volleyball 6 p.m. "I'll dark. \$1. Info: Steph 625-9551.

Boston ♦ Western Orthodox Church Mass. Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St. 227-5794.

Provincetown ♦ Christian Healing Service. 5:30 p.m. 96 Bradford St. (P'Town AIDS Support group). Pot luck dinner to follow. (508) 487-3866.

Boston ♦ Metropolitan Community Church Worship/Fellowship. 131 Cambridge St. (near Govt Center). 7 p.m. Info: Rev. Tanis 437-0420.

Boston ♦ Narcotics Anonymous. L/GM. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. 247-2927.

Boston ♦ The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30 a.m.

## MONDAYS

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 12:25 p.m. 262-3456.

Boston ♦ Chiltern Downhill Skiing Lessons. Monday nights at Nashoba Valley ski area. Info: Jim 843-3966.

Boston ♦ Monday Night Dinners for PWA's and Friends: about 100 people meeting every Monday at AAC for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AAC, 131 Clarendon St. 437-6200.

Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous. First Parish Church, Mtg. Hs. Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Boston ♦ Boston Bisexual Women's Network Coordinating Comm. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 247-2927.

Worcester ♦ AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ Northern Lights Alternatives Monday Night Rap Group. Talk to others living with HIV. 38 Appleton St. 7:30-9 p.m. Info: Ann O'Rourke 694-0964.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap Group. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 p.m. 354-8807.

Cable TV ♦ "Between Takes." Often a g/l slant on events. Boston A3 Mondays 9:30 p.m. Cambridge CCTV Thursdays 8:30 p.m. Rhode Island Interconnect A Fridays 8:30 p.m. Other areas: check listings.

## TUESDAYS

Providence, RI ♦ ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

Gloucester ♦ Healing Circle / Positively Clean and Sober. Healing circle 6:30 to 8 p.m., open to anyone facing chronic or life-threatening illness. Pos. C&S 8 to 9 p.m., for people living with HIV and dealing with subst. abuse issues. N. Shore AIDS Project, 19 Pleasant St. (508) 283-0101.

Boston ♦ ACT UP/Boston. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. 49-ACTUP.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30: 354-8807.

Medford Radio ♦ "We the People" — with feminist Shella Parks. WMFO 91.5FM. 7-9a.m. Tufts U. radio.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ G/B Men and Their Significant Others. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ L/G Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. 266-0628.

## WEDNESDAYS

Boston ♦ Sales Networks Program for G/L Business Owners and Supporters of the Community. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St., 2nd floor. Registration required: Marc Spencer 262-2400.

Hyde Park ♦ Women's Pick-Up Hockey. MDC Hyde Park Rink (near Dedham). 8 to 9 a.m. Info: Janice 326-1600 x350.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6p.m.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30p.m. (800) 42BAGLY.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian AI-Anon. Wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. 354-8807.

Springfield ♦ Names Project Meeting. New chapter with weekly quilting meetings. All welcome. Frontier. 19 Pearl St. 7 to 10 p.m. (413) 788-7459

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area G/L Youth (SWAGLY). Social support group for youths 22 and under. 7 to 9 p.m. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Road. 7 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-0005.

Bridgewater ♦ S. Shore G/L Alliance. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Bridgewater Center Primarily a social group of age 25+, but all welcome. Info: Glen 293-5183 or Dave 294-0367.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ who are In Substance Abuse Recovery. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

## THURSDAYS

Boston ♦ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Boston ♦ Names Project Quilting Bee—for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Sewing supplies and support provided. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon St. 7th floor. 7 to 9 p.m. Info 451-9003.

Cambridge ♦ Drop In at DOB Coffee Night. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Out and About. A lesbian social and support group. Info: Keryn (603) 749-5852.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. 262-3456.

Provincetown ♦ Positive PWA Coalition Weekly Rap Session. 7:30. 155 Bradford St. Peer led. (508) 487-3998.

Boston ♦ The Group. Discussion and social hour. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 734-2076.

Boston ♦ L/G Ice Hockey Practices and Intersquad Scrimmages. All levels. 9 p.m. Greater Boston rink. Info: John 350-6063, Al 522-1408.

Cambridge ♦ GAMIT Study Break. (GAMIT—rinks at MIT.) GAMIT lounge, room 50-306, 142 Memorial Dr.

## FRIDAYS

Watertown ♦ GLOW: G/L of Watertown. 395-4664.

Boston ♦ GCN Friday Night Stuffing Party. Come stuff the paper, eat pizza, and make new friends. GCN, 62 Berkeley St. 5 p.m. 426-4469.

Boston ♦ Friday Night At The Movies. Boston Living Center. 140 Clarendon St. Free. 7 p.m. 236-1012.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. 262-3456.

Somerville ♦ Swing and C/W Dance for G/L/B. 8 p.m., swing and two-step lessons; 9 p.m. to midnight, dancing. Smoke/alcohol free, juice bar. Alr cond. \$5. "On Broadway," 880 Broadway. 623-9532.

Provincetown ♦ Safe Sex Brigade and Anti-L/G/B Violence Campaign. Volunteers meet on steps of P'Town Post Office Friday and Sunday nights at 11:30 p.m. through Labor Day. Info: ACT UP (508) 487-2063.

# The Seventh Annual Boston International LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL

Sunday 18  
**A Letter to Harvey Milk**  
Yariv Kohn  
USA, 1991, 16mm, 27 min.

In a creative writing class, a group of older men and women recall powerful, and at times painful, past events that have deeply affected their lives. One of the most poignant memories comes from a man who confronts his homosexual past. This film sensitively touches on themes of struggle, persecution, prejudice, old age and survival. Leslea Newman, author of the short story "A Letter to Harvey Milk" on which the eponymously-titled film was based, will be present at this screening.

**Boston premiere**

**Resident Alien**  
Jonathan Nossiter  
USA, 1990, 35mm, 85 min.

"A portrait of 81-year-old Quentin Crisp, who emigrated to Manhattan at the age of 73 when he was riding the crest of a publicity wave... the film traces the character of this indefatigably witty, wildly dressed and outlandishly coiffured sexual revolutionary and bohemian king. In turns joyful, pathetic, criticized and adored, Crisp continues to fascinate." —Kay Armalage, Festival of Festivals, 15th Toronto International Film Festival. Quentin Crisp will be present to introduce the film.

**Boston premiere**

Monday 19  
**The Wild Rovers**  
Blake Edwards  
USA, 1971, 35mm, 138 min.

A homoerotic Western from director Blake Edwards (Victor, Victoria) starring William Holden as a hard bitten gunslinger and Ryan O'Neal as his young sleeping bag buddy. A very odd and surprising gay re-discovery.

New, uncut 35mm print.

Tuesday 20  
**Sunday, Bloody Sunday**  
John Schlesinger  
USA, 1971, 85mm, 35 min.

Glenda Jackson, Peter Finch and Murray Head compose the sexually scrambled triangle in director John Schlesinger's classic. The story is as absorbing and intelligent and deeply moving as the day it was first released. For those already familiar with this film, here is a chance to view it in a brilliant new 35mm print, and for a new generation, the opportunity to experience one of the best gay films ever made.



Wednesday 21  
**Herstories**

A film and video program which reflects the cultural, historic and social atmosphere experienced by lesbians growing up in different cultures.

**Flesh and Paper**  
Pratibha Parmar  
India/United Kingdom, 1990, 16mm, 26 min.

**Flesh and Paper** is a lyrical exploration of the sense and sensibilities of Indian lesbian poet and writer, Sumiti Namjoshi. The film weaves a sensual tapestry of her life and writings and creates a moving and powerful portrait of a unique woman.

**Boston premiere**

**Women Like Us**  
Suzanne Neild & Roastind Pearson  
Great Britain, 1990, video, 49 min.

Sixteen lesbians, aged from 50 to 80, living in various parts of Britain and from different races, classes and backgrounds talk about their lives and experiences being a lesbian. A moving work which addresses a multitude of complex topics including dress, stereotypes, role-playing, romance, and artistic and intellectual movements.

**Boston premiere**

Thursday, August 22  
**Sex and Politics**

The lesbian film and video-makers in this program address issues of politics and popular culture in relationship to sexual identity. Included is a series of music videos by Ilse Gassinger of Austria which probe similar issues using a visually dense, viscerally evocative language.

**Laws and Skin**  
Chris Marin  
Canada, 1990, video, 5 min.

A fantasy of popular gay culture, juxtaposing a Brazilian Carnival with lesbian and gay pride day. Each of the bodies portrayed are challenging psycho-social laws; that is, the rules and regulations which limit the expression of gender and sexual identity.

**Boston premiere**

**Laura, Ingrid and Rebecca**  
Philippe Roques  
USA, 1990, video, 7 min.

Three activists from ACT UP speak sagely about their experiences with group politics. They talk of the difficulty of making the men of ACT UP acknowledge the connection between men's and women's health issues—and in one educational and vividly funny anecdote, they describe a sit-in at a downtown bank's men's room. **Laura, Ingrid and Rebecca** integrates anger and action, AIDS activism and pro-choice work.

**Boston premiere**

**Keep Your Laws Off My Body**  
Catherine Saalfeld and Zoe Leonard  
USA, 1990, video, 12:30 min.

The intrusion of lawmakers into the most personal areas of our lives is here made palpable as this tape intercuts intimate, at home images of lesbian lovers with an extensive catalogue of riot police responding to an ACT UP demonstration at New York City Hall.

**Boston premiere**

## AUGUST 1991

*all films start at 7:30 PM*  
**at the ICA, 955 Boylston St., Boston**  
**For more information call The ICA**  
**(617) 266-5152**

Pictured left: *Resident Alien*

**Dreams of Passion**  
Aarin Birch  
USA, 1989, 16mm, 5 min.

Two black women explore their passion and desires through the beauty of dance.

**Boston premiere**

**Jollies**  
Sadie Benning  
USA, 1990, video, 11 min.

Only 17, Benning picked up her first Fisher-Price PXL2000 (Pixelvision) toy camera two years ago and already she's carved a niche of her own, blending personal experiences with experiments in narrative composition.

**Boston premiere**

**I Got This Way From Kissing Girls**  
Julie Butler  
USA, 1990, film (screened in video), 8 min.

Against a plain background, and in painted black and white, the act of kissing is placed center stage. An extended set of women—ranging in ages, races, sizes and types—embrace, smile and smooch to an evocative sound track.

**Boston premiere**

**The Gay Dating Game**  
Produced by Tommie Saeti  
USA, 1990, video, 15 min.

The below the belt humor of this send up of the popular TV show *The Dating Game* keeps **The Gay Dating Game** in a fixed weekly spot on Manhattan Cable. Host Tommie and "hostess" Lahoma are outrageous as the matchmaker emcees of this campy game show. The girl-meets-girl hall of the 30-minute program will be featured here.

**Boston premiere**

**Video Album: The GAYmes**  
Ellen Spiro  
USA, 1991, video, 25 min.

A collision of images, sounds and impressions recreates an event during which the collective gay/lesbian body becomes a site of physical empowerment.

**Boston premiere**

**What Do Pop Art, Pop Music, Pornography & Politics Have To Do With Real Life?**  
Azian Nurudin  
USA, 1990, video, 21 min.

Using clichés and role-playing, Nurudin challenges traditional concepts of race, gender, sexuality and the relationship between art and pop culture. Nurudin intercuts a puffy, celebrity talk show (hosted by the videomaker as Andy Warhol, and casting stand-ins for other pop celebrities), with footage of urban squalor from some of San Francisco's more downtrodden areas to create a troubling juxtaposition.

**Boston premiere**

**Boston Premiere of Music Videos by Ilse Gassinger**

"Her figures and characters remain chimeric, her bodies phantasmal. She knows that there is no such thing as here and now in video." —Karl Sierck, film critic (Vienna)  
**Versöhren/Versetzt** 1984 9 min  
**Quick Lurch** 1986 3:30 min.  
**Die Evidenz des Kalküls** 1987 8 min.  
**Splash** 1989 1:30 min.  
**Magnetique** 1988 2:20 min.  
**Eisenherz** 1989 2:40 min.  
**Exposed** 1989 8:20 min.

\*in collaboration with Anna Steminger

Friday, August 23  
**Camping Out**

This upbeat, celebratory, collection of film and video explores, through humor and insight, introspection, intimacy and gender.

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